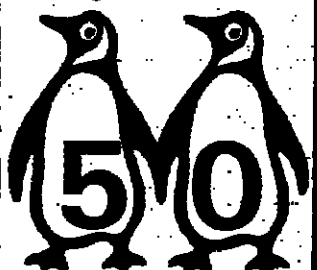


THE TIMES Saturday

Bird in the hand
Roy Strong presents a half-century bouquet to Penguin books



Red star
Drink samples the pick of the 1983 clarets

Country capers
There are problems as well as joys in having a second home in the country. Family Life explains how to handle them

Playtime 11
John Woodcock reports on England against West Indies at Edgbaston

Teachers to step up strikes

Strike action involving 26,000 teachers in more than 30 education authorities is to be stepped up in England and Wales next week after the refusal by local authority leaders to bring forward the date of a meeting to discuss terms for arbitration. Page 2

Secret report

Three Bulgarians are among eight men Italian authorities want to prosecute for trying to kill Pope John Paul II three years ago. An Italian state prosecutor filed a secret report asking for the trial of five Turks and three Bulgarians in addition to Mehmet Ali Agca, the only man so far convicted of the shooting. Extracts from the prosecutor's report appear in *The Times* today. Spectrum, page 8

Hero's welcome



Mr P. W. Botha, South Africa's Prime Minister, was welcomed home as a conquering hero from his eight-nation European tour by jubilant followers. Page 5

Space change

The Army has replaced its candidate to be Britain's first man in space because of a security investigation involving his former regiment in Cyprus. Page 2

Police accused

Hospital consultants have accused the police and NHS auditors of breaking the confidentiality of patients' records while investigating claims that doctors are defrauding the health service. Page 3

Snap NZ poll

New Zealand is to have a snap general election on July 14. It has been brought forward because of the defection of a backbencher. Page 5

Jaguar surge

Jaguar cars, which is to be privatised next month, appears on course for record full-year profits after making £18m in the first quarter. Page 15

Leader page 11

Letters: On "star wars", from Professor I. Freedman; North London Polytechnic, from Professor D. Benham and others; British diet, from Professor R. Hoffenberg, and Mr B. Edsall. Leading articles: Miners' strike; Yugoslavia. Features, pages 8-10. Why Solidarity is standing trial; rivals for the Trudeau succession; David Watt on Europe's response to a second Reagan term. Spectrum: behind the plot to kill the Pope. Friday Page: Vadim, his book and his women. Obituaries, page 12. Sir Noel Hutton, Michael Christiansen. Classified: Small business, page 16; Motorcars, pages 22, 23; Personal, page 24.

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Miners' union will boycott proposed coal board ballot

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Sheffield

Miners' union leaders yesterday decided to boycott the National Coal Board's proposed back-to-work pithead ballot. The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers also agreed unanimously to intensify the 14-week-old "rolling" strike and to halt all coke and coal supplies to the steel industry, pending a deal with the steelworkers' union. Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, said of the ballot plan: "We shall tell our members to have nothing to do with this outside interference in the internal affairs of a free, independent and democratic trade union. To do other than that would put this union in a very difficult position indeed. Our advice will be to have nothing whatsoever to do with such tactics."

Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board's chairman, said yesterday that if there was no "positive decision" from the miners' executive to consult the men, the board "will make a decision within a week on whether to hold its own ballot". He added: "We would be ready to hold it within ten days."

The probable timing for a coal board-sponsored poll of the pitmen would be at the end of this month, or early July, barely ten days before the union's national delegate conference is reconvened for two days of policymaking which would bring about a further prolongation of the stoppage.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the union, said that white-collar coal board staff had already been preparing envelopes for the home addresses of many miners, even before the collapse of the latest peace talks two days ago.

"It appears that the intention to hold a ballot was already there. They went to the meeting intent on it breaking down so they could move towards a ballot", he said.

EFFECTS OF STRIKE ON COAL INDUSTRY					
Week ended	Last output (tonnes)	Coal produced (tonnes)	Miners' last earnings (£m)	Pithead stocks (1000 tonnes)	Pits on strike/abandoned (out of 176)
17/3	1,781,000	415,000	18.3	21,967	142
24/3	1,743,000	466,000	18.8	21,737	132
31/3	1,752,000 p	451,000	19.2	21,723	130
7/4	1,720,000 p	454,000	18.9	21,592 p	122
14/4	1,701,000 p	471,000	18.840	21,849 p	122
21/4	1,533,000 p	444,000	16.975	22,044 p	123
28/4	1,107,000 p	268,000	14.179	21,878 p	122
5/5	1,701,000 p	424,000	18.825	21,977 p	122
12/5	1,311,000 p	370,000	16.357	22,053 p	122
19/5	1,708,000 p	451,000	19.070	22,160 p	119
26/5	1,848,000 p	428,000	18.580	22,116 p	122
2/6	392,000 p	101,000	7.320	22,171 p	126
9/6	1,571,000 p	n/a	17.210	n/a	122

p - provisional; - holiday week

Source: National Coal Board

One in three defies £120m more for pit pay-offs

By David Kelton, Labour Correspondent

The last back-to-work by the National Coal Board has tried to encourage has shown little sign of gathering pace with only small numbers of miners joining their working colleagues.

Board officials have mounted a propaganda exercise in north Derbyshire in the hope of persuading a large-scale return to work but fewer than 500 men are working, compared with 200 in the early days of the strike.

The board estimates that about 49,000 people are working in the industry out of a total workforce of just more than 178,000 that includes deputies and managers. The best guess the board can make is that about one third of the membership of the National Union of Mineworkers is defying the strike.

Many collieries, particularly in the Midlands, have remained stable throughout the dispute with numbers attending work varying only slightly. The vast majority of the 30,600 in the Nottinghamshire colliery have worked normally, with the highest number on strike reaching only 3,500 in May, according to the board.

Regional officials of the board dispute claims by Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, that about a third of all Nottinghamshire miners are on strike. The miners' leader's figures of 30 per cent of the colliery's workforce are also challenged, with the management claiming 122 out of 176 are on strike or picketed out.

Only a handful of miners in the Leicestershire and south Derbyshire collieries are said to be not reporting for work. With the exception of Coventry colliery, where 400 of the 1,200 workforce are on strike, the Warwickshire colliery is reporting almost normal working.

The largest fluctuations have been in the Lancashire colliery, where all six pits have been affected at one time or another depending on the various pronouncements from the area NUM leadership. An attempt to start a return to work move at Bickershaw colliery earlier this week and was met by mass picketing. Board officials express satisfaction that numbers attending for work at the colliery have gone up by 10 per cent to about 340.

There appears little evidence of a substantial move back to work although in the board's western area, covering Lancashire, Cumbria, north Wales and Staffordshire, the numbers reporting for work has increased from 6,175 at the beginning of April to 8,205 now. That is estimated to represent more than half the NUM membership in the area.

Continued on back page, col 2

Police shoot two unarmed men

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The injured men, both from east London, were taken to North Middlesex Hospital. One had an operation and was described later as being in a stable condition, while the second was moved to an orthopaedic hospital after doctors feared there might be partial paralysis of the spine.

Both had been hit by a single bullet.

Commander Frank Carter, head of the Central Robbery Squad, will conduct an inquiry into the police operation and report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The police were in the most

office, in Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham, because earlier in the week a woman employee had reported to Mr Michael Coney, the owner, that she thought she was being followed. Yesterday, Mrs Margaret Simmonds, the manager, arrived shortly after 8am. Mr Coney said: "She went in with two officers. She went behind the security screen, opened up the rear office and as she opened up the kitchen at the rear she saw some men, screamed and started to run."

Scotland Yard said the detectives then shot two men and arrested them.

Why a diffident duke spoke out against smoking

By Rupert Morris

The Duke of Gloucester was in relaxed mood yesterday as his children played on the lawn at Kensington Palace and he reflected on his maiden speech in the House of Lords on Wednesday. He had broken 10 years of silence with a forthright denunciation of the evils of smoking and it was evident that he had got something off his chest.

"I feel rather different about speaking at all," explained this mild bespectacled man who is eleventh in line to the throne. "There are not many subjects about which I think I've got more to say than anybody else."

Smoking, however, is different. It is not a party political issue and it was an occasion when he could happily reconcile his conscience with his public duty to be non-controversial.

"I think this was the right occasion to speak. It was the fourth report of the Royal College of Physicians and the pathetic thing is that it's so like the first one. Doctors can only report then it's up to the politicians, and the trouble is that there is a very powerful force moving in the opposite direction."

The Duke, who has never smoked or drunk alcohol, likened the work of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), the anti-smoking group of which he is patron, against the multi-national cigarette companies, to David's struggle against Goliath.

He said that smoking killed 100,000 people a year in Britain, far more than any comparable agent of death, such as the IRA. It was not good enough for the older generation to surrender to their addiction, thereby allowing another generation to become addicted. He wanted government action to spell out the dangers far more clearly.

The duke, who is 40 in August, is not often drawn into public controversy. In spite of being a qualified architect, unlike the Prince of Wales, he has chosen not to be drawn into the debate in modern architecture.

He said that the Prince of Wales had expressed a widely-felt view about modern architecture, although he thought architects were not entirely to blame.

"The absurd thing about being a duke or a prince is that you are a professional ignoramus. You are not really trained for anything for that reason I suppose you can sometimes represent the man in the street where politicians cannot."

Normally the duke does not like upsetting people, but this time he did not mind if some people thought him a kill joy. "I do have some vices," he said, taking another piece of chocolate cake.



Lloyd, England's opening batsman, falls and leaves the field (bottom left) after being hit during the first Test at Edgbaston by a ball from Marshall, the West Indian bowler. He will be in hospital for at least a week with impaired vision. (Photographs: Ian Stewart; John Woodcock, page 20).



Lloyd, England's opening batsman, falls and leaves the field (bottom left) after being hit during the first Test at Edgbaston by a ball from Marshall, the West Indian bowler. He will be in hospital for at least a week with impaired vision. (Photographs: Ian Stewart; John Woodcock, page 20).

Israel seeks British arms technology link

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir has proposed to Britain that the two countries should undertake joint development of weapons and military technology.

A senior Israeli defence source told *The Times* that the plan for Anglo-Israeli cooperation along similar lines to that envisaged between Israel and the United States was put forward during the 90-minute meeting in London early last week between Mr Michael Heseltine, the British Defence Minister, and his Israeli counterpart Mr Moshe Arens. No British answer has yet been given.

The Israeli proposal is understood to have been phrased in general terms and not to have mentioned any specific projects. "It is something that is now under consideration in London, and which we shall follow up at a later stage", the source said.

He explained that Mr Arens' scheme would involve a combination of Israeli know-how - particularly that derived from its experience in the recent

Lebanon war - and Israeli personnel combined with British finance and certain specialized forms of British military technology.

As an example of the type of joint development project which might be considered, the source cited the drones or pilotless spy aircraft which Israel has refined for reconnaissance missions over Lebanon.

The proposal comes at a time of significant improvement in the atmosphere between the two governments over defence. Previously, relations were badly soured as a result of the British disapproval of the June 1982 invasion of Lebanon and subsequent siege of West Beirut.

Embargo says: The Ministry of Defence in London said last night that no collaborative projects have been agreed as a result of Mr Arens' call on Mr Heseltine.

A spokesman said: "Defence relations with Israel are limited and are confidential between the governments."

Low turnout by British voters in Euro-election

By David Cross and Richard Ford

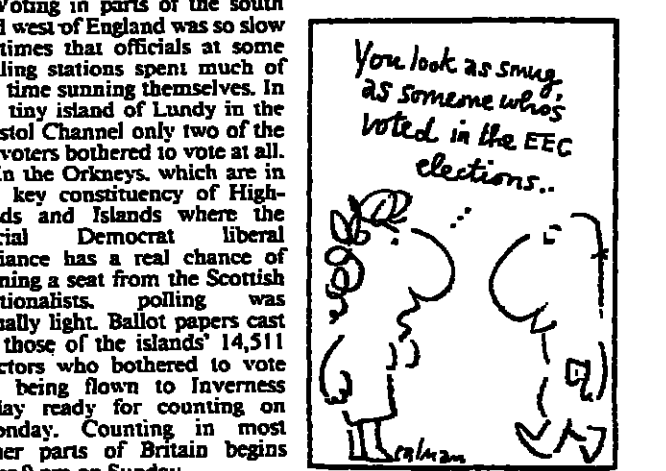
The Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, yesterday set a good example to the British electorate by voting early in the European elections. But, as expected, the uninspiring campaign fought by the political parties and general apathy about the European Community produced a low turnout across most of the country.

Voting in parts of the south and west of England was so slow at times that officials at some polling stations spent much of the time sunning themselves. In the tiny island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel only two of the 12 voters bothered to vote at all.

In the Orkneys, which are in the key constituency of Highlands and Islands where the Social Democrat liberal Alliance has a real chance of gaining a seat from the Scottish Nationalists, the polling was equally light. Ballot papers cast by those of the islands' 14,511 electors who bothered to vote are being flown to Inverness today ready for counting on Monday. Counting in most other parts of Britain begins after 9 pm on Sunday.

In London and the South-east, most polling stations reported a very slow start. In one community centre in Greenwich only four voters had cast their ballots by 7.30 am compared with about 20 at last year's general election.

In Northern Ireland, where the turnout was expected to be greater than other parts of the United Kingdom, the calm was shattered by two shooting incidents. A polling agent for the Social Democratic and Labour Party and his wife were threatened by a caller at their home in Ardara, Co Tyrone. It is understood that they were warned not to take part in the election but after an argument through a bolted door the stranger ran off when a legally held shotgun was fired.



At a polling station in nearby Trillick, voters ran away in panic when a police officer accidentally discharged a shot from his gun. There were also protests at booths in West Belfast by about 25 relatives and friends of James Campbell, shot dead by the Provisional IRA last week because of his alleged involvement in organized crime.

Phone poll predicts higher Danish vote

By Our Foreign Staff

Turnout in Denmark, where voters also went to the polls yesterday, was expected to be a marked improvement on the last European elections in 1979. A preliminary telephone poll of voters carried out for Danish Radio News estimated that about 60 per cent of Danes were voting compared with 47.8 per cent five years ago.

The same poll also forecast a polarization of the vote with anti-EEC and pro-EEC parties running neck and neck.

The last minute poll confirmed the general trend of other pre-election surveys which forecast a 35 per cent vote for anti-EEC parties, principally the Popular Movement Against EEC, and 36 per cent for the pro-EEC government parties, notably the Conservatives and the Liberals. The opposition Social Democrats and another parties which are lukewarm about the Community would seem to be the losers in the Danish elections with only 25 per cent of the vote.

In 1979 pro-EEC parties were supported by 35 per cent of the electorate and anti-EEC parties by 33 per cent of voters.

In the Netherlands, the fourth EEC member state to vote yesterday, the European elections were overshadowed by Wednesday night's decision in the Dutch parliament to deploy cruise missiles, albeit under certain strict conditions.

The elections are seen as a test for the centre-right coalition on both cruise and the Government's economic austerity programme. In advertisements published during the past few days, the opposition Labour Party has called on Holland's ten million voters to cast a decisive vote against the deployment of American-made missiles and the Government's economic programme.

The Dutch are traditionally keen Europeans and the turnout in 1979 was nearly 60 per cent. But with rain sweeping much of the country yesterday, many voters were believed to have stayed at home.

The other six members of the Community - France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Greece - all go to the polls on Sunday.

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Consultants accuse police of 'trawling' patients' records in fraud checks

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Hospital consultants yesterday accused the police and National Health Service auditors of breaching the confidentiality of patients' records in investigating claims that consultants are defrauding the health service of private practice income.

The police were accused of conducting "fishing expeditions" through the notes of thousands of patients which could contain information about abortions, mental illness and other confidential matters.

Auditors ordered to 35 health districts by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, were also combing through thousands of records, questioning staff and patients, the consultants said.

The auditors were brought in after police investigations were launched into allegations against consultants at two hospitals, Good Hope, in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands and the Prince Charles in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan.

The allegations were made at the British Medical Association's annual consultants' conference in London which said that it was appalled at the reports. Leaders of the association are to seek an urgent meeting with the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr John Chawner, chairman of the Welsh consultants, said he believed that up to 60,000 patients' records had been read by teams of police in the Prince Charles hospital investigation. Patients were being visited in their homes and asked if they really received treatment.

One woman with cancer, he claimed, had been asked by the police if she really did have the disease, or if perhaps her consultant had "made it up". That, he said, was reprehensible.

He understood that the police had not obtained a court order for access to the notes. They were breaching an agreement between the association, chief constables and the Home Office that notes could be read only in serious crimes such as murder and rape.

"It is one thing to investigate allegations against an individual consultant with a court order for disclosure of information. It is quite another to look through the records of many thousands of patients covering perhaps dozens of consultants", Mr Chawner said.

Mr James Appleby, a consultant paediatrician in Kent, said that the trawling through records was "the most shocking abuse of individual patients' rights I have ever heard of. If these records are to be made available to the police, our patients will never be able to confide in us. It will totally affect the way we are able to run patient care."

It underlined the position the association had adopted over the confidentiality of notes and the powers of the police in the Criminal Evidence Bill.

Dr Maurice Barrow, chairman of the consultants' committee, said that doctors had no objection to specific allegations being investigated. "We are not in the business of protecting the fraudulent or shielding the dishonest."

Health drive in Scotland, the 'sick man of Europe'

A campaign costing £500,000 a year to woo Scots away from self-inflicted ill-health is to be launched in August, promoted by the Scottish Health Education group and designed by an Edinburgh advertising agency (Ronald Faux writes).

The campaign will bring together five separate health-promotion exercises ranging from discouraging smoking to preventing immunization.

In health circles, Scotland is slightly referred to as the sick man of Europe because of a record of heavy smoking, hard drinking, dental decay and bad diet. The slogan attacking this image says: "Be all you can be" and ends "Go for good health."

It is designed as optimistic encouragement to those whom it may concern, from the pale and paunchy to those further down that slope where so many Scots allegedly slip.

Mr Richard Dickson, the account director of advertising agency, Woolward Roys, said there would be extensive newspaper and television advertising promoting a healthy lifestyle.

A pilot scheme, entitled "Walk About a Bit", which will be followed by the full-scale and long-term effort to improve Scottish health has been highly successful. More than 20 walks of between two and six miles have been organized and thousands of Scots joined in.



Mr Angus yesterday: Membership restored.

Ban lifted on judo champion

Ronald Angus, aged 27, the all-England judo champion, who was banned from competitions last December for suspected drug taking, has been restored to membership of the British Judo Association.

His reinstatement was announced in the High Court in London yesterday after the association admitted that its life ban, without giving him a hearing, was against the rules of natural justice.

Mr Justice Warner approved terms for the disposal of Mr Angus's action against the association for a declaration that its decision to ban him for life from competitions and suspend him from membership for five years, was in breach of natural justice.

Mr Angus, of Aubrey Road, Crouch End, north London, who holds dual British and Canadian nationality, won the all-England championship on December 3. Eleven days later the association banned him.

A statement issued after the court hearing on behalf of Mr Angus and the association said he had been undergoing treatment for nasal congestion since the late 1970s.

In 1983 he was prescribed the decongestant, Sudafed, by his Canadian doctor, who assured him that the drug did not contain any substance banned by the sporting bodies and that it would not affect his performance.

However, Sudafed contained the drug Pseudo-Ephedrine, which was a banned substance, the statement said.

Sinclair displays modified QL

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

The modified QL Sinclair microcomputer was displayed for the first time yesterday at the Earls Court Computer Fair, west London.

Despite a two-month backlog on orders and development problems which have limited deliveries to 4,000 since its launch in January, Sinclair was accepting orders.

The Quantum Leap aimed at the sophisticated home user or small business, had been plagued with problems affecting its operating software (programs). A small compensating device was attached to the early deliveries of the machine.

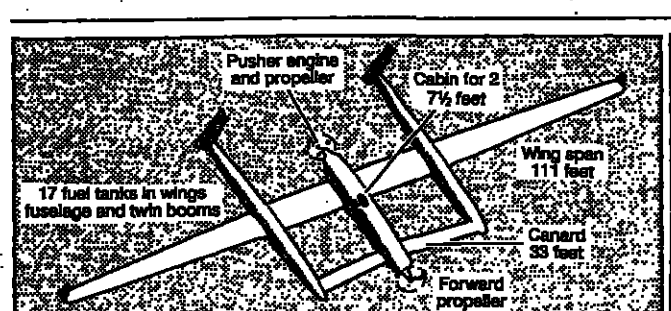
The compact design has been completed in recent weeks, but only a few hundred have been delivered.

The machine, which sells for £400 in Britain, will be launched for \$499 (£355) in the United States this autumn.

When unveiled in January the QL attracted 500 orders a day. The production target was to be 20,000 a month by mid summer, but that appears to have slipped because of the unforeseen development problems.

The computer is due to be launched in Europe next spring. Sinclair has just announced a sales operation in France and West Germany.

The exhibition at Earls Court ends on Sunday. Admission is £3 for adults.



Fueled for flight: The first round the world powered flight without refuelling will be attempted next spring by this machine under construction in California. (Michael Bally writes).

Crewed by a man and a woman, the journey is expected to take 12 days. Rutan Aircraft is building the Rutan Voyager out of composite materials, such as carbon graphite and glass fibre, to give high strength with low weight.

To conserve fuel, speed will be limited to 130 knots for the first two days and then 70 knots from the rear engine only.

End of 'meal ticket for life'

Divorce reforms likely to be law by September

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Radical reforms in the divorce laws, which will allow divorce after one year of marriage, end a wife's "meal ticket for life" and make children's needs first priority are expected to be in force by September.

About 170,000 couples a year will be affected by the changes in the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill, which has almost completed its parliamentary stages and is expected to receive the Royal Assent next month.

Despite the strong personal backing of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, as well as support from the Law Commission and some of the legal profession, the Bill has attracted widespread criticism on different fronts from churchmen, the Law Society and women's and welfare organizations.

The first government divorce reform legislation for 10 years, the Bill aims to secure fairer and less bitter financial settlements. It has three chief ingredients.

First, divorce will be possible after one year if both parties consent. At present divorce petitions cannot be presented within three years unless there has been exceptional hardship or depravity.

This is to remove the duplication of proceedings where couples seek judicial separation and then, three years later, divorce.

It is also meant to remove the subjective element which leads to different interpretations by judges as to exceptional hardship and depravity, and to

avoid the bitterness caused by such judgments and the damage to the chances of amicable settlements.

But opponents, particularly church leaders, say the measure will weaken the fabric of marriage by making divorce easier.

The second chief element of the Bill, on financial settlements after divorce, makes the needs and welfare of children the first priority. It introduces the "clean break" principle, abolishing the aim of courts to put the parties in the same financial position as if the marriage had not broken down.

Instead, financial self-sufficiency is to be encouraged where appropriate, ending any expectation by a wife of "lifelong maintenance". Courts will be able to dismiss claims for maintenance.

This clause, aimed at ending the injustice of husbands paying large maintenance awards for many years after short, childless marriages, has been criticized on the ground that it will help only a small number of cases and could cause hardship.

The Bill also requires courts to consider the conduct of divorcing parties when determining settlements, where it would be "inequitable" to disregard it. The Government says this restates the present law, a view supported by Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division of the High Court.

But critics, notably the Law Society and the Legal Action Group of lawyers, say the courts will consider conduct more than at present, creating increased bitterness between spouses and draining the legal aid system.

Disabled athletes assemble for international contest



Competitors preparing for the International Games for the Disabled being held in Nassau County, New York, gathered at Stoke Mandeville Sports Centre for the Disabled in Buckinghamshire yesterday so that United States immigration and customs officials

could clear them in advance. Mr Robert Brown and Mr Ernie Davies arrived by Concorde earlier this week for the goodwill operation. "We are delighted to be part of it," Mr Brown said.

The 150 disabled athletes, many unable to walk, others blind, with more than 50 escorts, left Heathrow on two scheduled flights later. Their vast container of luggage and equipment, including sporting rifles, javelins and racing wheelchairs capable of about 20 mph, had already been cleared through United States customs. More than

50 nations are taking part in the games. Photograph: Bill Warhurst

Efforts were made last night to get a new passport for one of the competitors, Mr Barrie Antonio, after thieves broke into his car in Berkshire and stole his passport and Olympic uniform.

Chancellor urged to cut car tax

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The British motor industry has told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that it will not be able to reduce car prices in line with European prices or reach its full potential as an export until he removes the discriminatory 10 per cent car tax.

Mr George Turnbull, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, told the society's annual meeting in London yesterday that it was of little use for the Chancellor to exhort industrialists to do better when the country's largest manufacturing industry was handicapped in this way.

He had drawn the Chancellor's attention to Germany where the total tax on new cars was 14 per cent compared with the British total of 24.6 per cent which comprises value added tax and the car tax.

He said this represented an extra taxation burden of £1,300m. In addition, German companies could deduct VAT on cars bought for business use and workers could claim an income tax allowance for travel to and from work whether by car or by public transport.

British car makers were disappointed with the short-term view taken by the Treasury of the need to maintain the special car tax.

Sunday trading 'boon to DIY'

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Britain's leading do-it-yourself retailer forecast yesterday that volume trade would increase between 18 and 27 per cent if the Government freed Sunday trading, after the report of a committee of inquiry which is expected to go to the Home Secretary next month.

B & Q, part of Woolworth, could look to that effect in its stores in England and Wales, according to Mr Malcolm Parkinson, marketing director, who is also chairman of the Sunday trading committee of the Federation of DIY Retailers.

The federation has been

pressing for abolition of the Shops Act of 1950 which restricts Sunday and late weekday opening hours.

An option with such a trading increase would be to reduce prices and there the effect could be a 10 per cent cut, Mr Parkinson suggested. More likely prices would be held for a longer period than would otherwise be the case and company profit margins might benefit, at least for a time.

In Scotland, where Sunday trading hours are unrestricted, B & Q has not cut prices. But that was because it had a national pricing policy, Mr

Parkinson said. Trading volumes at its Scottish stores have increased but not at the levels that could be expected in England and Wales.

B & Q and other federation members have been opening on Sundays in England and Wales and collecting hundreds of court fines through flouting the law in a campaign to get the Shops Act investigated.

As a result, Sunday is already their second most busy trading day. The volume increases, Mr Parkinson forces would come largely from the freedom to promote Sunday opening.

English population likely to reach 48.6m by 2001

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The population of England is expected to rise slowly from 46.8 million by 2001, an annual increase of 0.15 per cent, according to the latest projections from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

There are wide regional variations, however. East Anglia is the fastest growing area with an average increase of 1.4 per cent a year, nearly ten times the national average, while the population of the North and North-west is expected to decline.

During the 20-year period, the greatest growth is expected in a semi-circular band round

the west and north of London, with Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk all expected to increase by at least 15 per cent.

The densely populated metropolitan counties of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Midlands and Tyne and Wear face - the greatest population losses, while Cleveland, co Durham and Greater London are also set to decline. Bradford and Rotherham, however, are expected to grow by almost 10 per cent.

Population Projections by Area 1981-2001, Series PP3 No 5, Stationery Office, £5.20.

Royal rings mine to offer shares

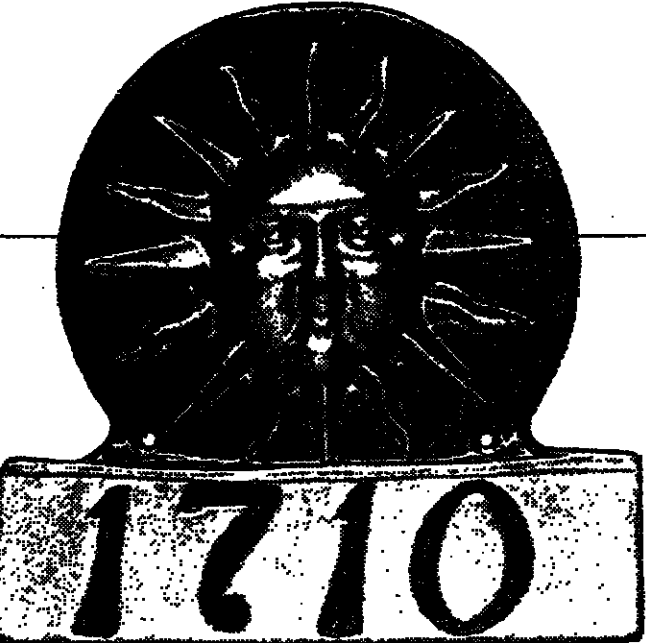
By Derek Pain

Shares in the Welsh mine which has provided the gold for royal wedding rings for more than 50 years will be floated on the Stock Exchange next week.

Clogau Gold Mines, based in Gwynedd, is raising money to pay for a two-year exploration and development programme.

More than £2m will be raised by the sale of the shares at 30p each. At the sale price the company, whose chairman is Lord Harlech, is valued at £4.2m.

Gold has been produced at the mine since 1860.



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PARLIAMENT June 14 1984

Britain on track for lower inflation

THE ECONOMY

Britain was on track for a further reduction in inflation, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the Commons. The country had the best mix of steady growth and low inflation that it had had for a long time. We intend (he said) to keep it that way.

The Chancellor said that over the 12 months to April, the retail price index had risen by 3.2 per cent. The Government wanted to see the inflation rate still lower and was determined to see it go down again.

The rate of growth of the money supply over the last six to 12 months had been well inside target range and a CBI survey showed a significant decline in the number of firms expecting to increase prices.

There was no reason to believe Labour Party spokesmen because all their economic forecasts had proved wrong in the past, included the claim by Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on the Treasury and economic matters, that inflation would have reached double figures by the end of 1983.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C): Does the fact that the average retail price index figure for the three months to April was 5.2 per cent higher than for the same period last year, and the annualized rate of inflation was 8.6 per cent, demonstrate anything in the Government's determination to curb the ravages of inflation through controlling the money supply and public expenditure growth?

Mr Lawson: No. Seasonal patterns vary, but the average is in accordance with forecasts I made in

the Budget of 4.5 per cent inflation by the last quarter of this year. It is always particularly dangerous to take three months and analyse it, as the last Labour Government discovered.

This Government continues to put the battle of inflation at the forefront of its policies by continued fiscal and monetary discipline. I was heartened that this was endorsed by all nations at the recent summit.

Mr Denis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): If Mr Lawson is concerned about inflation movements all over the world, why is he party to the idea of bailing out the Argentinean bankers where inflation is more than 500 per cent? Why does he not look after British industry?

Mr Lawson: I am looking after British industry with great assistance from British industry and less from him.

There is no question of bailing out foreign countries. What we hope is that the Argentine Government will reach agreement with the IMF. On the basis of which the Argentine Government will take measures to put its house in order. If it does not, it will clearly not qualify for assistance from the IMF.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C): I have no reason to doubt the robustness of the recovery, not least in British manufacturing industry. In the six months to March manufacturing industry's investment rose by 9.2 per cent, and the most recent survey from the Department of Trade and Industry on the investment intentions of

jobs would be created by making the economy work more efficiently and effectively, more privatization and changing the tax system, as I did in the Budget, in a way more favourable to employment.

Dr Oona McDermott, an Opposition spokesman: How does he expect us to believe him about the anticipated growth rate this year when total production stagnated in the first quarter, is likely to fall in the second and is well below 1979 levels?

Mr Lawson: This country's gross domestic product and the continuing output of the economy at present are at an all-time high and markedly above 1979 levels.

● The United Kingdom's economic growth rate last year was the fastest in the European Community and it was expected that the UK would top the league this year, Mr Lawson said during other exchanges.

Mr Trevor Skeet (Bedfordshire North, C): Is there not a anxiety about manufacturing industries generally? Will they be able to maintain their performance in the next 10 years?

Mr Lawson said tributes were deserved by British industry, commerce, manufacturing, investment, the City of London and the North Sea oil industry.

I have no reason to doubt the robustness of the recovery, not least in British manufacturing industry. In the six months to March manufacturing industry's investment rose by 9.2 per cent, and the most recent survey from the Department of Trade and Industry on the investment intentions of

manufacturing industry shows an increase of 12 per cent this year.

Mr Bryan Gould (Dagenham, Lab) referred to the report of the Select Committee on Trade and Industry on the deficit in trade and manufactured goods with the EEC. This year, he said, that deficit was already running at over £9 billion.

That is the definitive judgment on the Government's economic policy (he said).

Mr Lawson replied that it was about to pick out one component from the balance of payments. The current account on the balance of payments last year showed a surplus of nearly £3 billion and Britain was in surplus again this year and expected to remain so.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C): It is the Americans that are in deficit and it is bringing some downturn in the American economy in 1983-84, and the onset of a new recession, albeit mild, has plans for some easing of monetary restraint here to compensate for the downturn in the United States and the Western economy generally which may result?

Mr Lawson said it was a bit difficult to speculate what was likely to happen in 1985, let alone beyond that.

It is true the Americans intend (from the balance of payments) to reduce their deficit in 1985 and 1986 and 1987. That is all to the good. But it does not follow there will be any downturn in the American economy.

Our recovery began in 1981 in the wake of a Budget which reduced our Budget deficit substantially to one of the lowest in the industrialized

world. We have kept it low and the recovery has kept going.

Dr Oona McDermott: The Americans have already achieved a growth rate of 8 per cent this year, far in excess of his expectations, by increasing public expenditure, especially on welfare.

Mr Lawson: There are certain advantages from having an economy and a society which has public expenditure which is only 35 per cent of its GDP, and no Socialist party (laughter).

● Economic recovery was well under way, with growth at 3 per cent in 1983 and forecast growth of a further 3 per cent in 1984, Mr Peter Hain, Secretary to the Treasury, said.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab): He is pleased and anxious that a 3 per cent growth rate appears to be going hand in hand with continuing high levels of unemployment?

Mr Rees: We would prefer to see unemployment going down, but do not know what conclusions to draw from his proposition. We are content that our growth rate is one of the highest in western Europe.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, will be saying in simple language whether the Government anticipates a substantial fall in unemployment between now and the end of this Parliament?

Mr Rees: Clearly we are as concerned as the Opposition to see that unemployment is reduced. He should recall another of his telling phrases in a speech which dealt with the country's Labour Party's unemployment concept but doubts their capacity.

PM appeals to miners to think again and return to work

COAL DISPUTE

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, resolutely maintained throughout another stormy question time exchange in the Commons that she would not intervene in the miners' dispute. She said that the strike had been unnecessary from the start, repeated more than once that the miners were divided, and appealed to those on strike to reconsider their position and return to work.

She also disclosed that, according to Mr Ian MacGregor, Chairman of the National Coal Board, more miners had already volunteered for redundancy than were needed to meet the target for reduction of manpower in the pits this year.

She warned that more pits could be closed through damage caused by the strike than the NCB envisaged closing.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, started the exchanges when he said: Following the breakdown of the pit peace talks, does the Prime Minister propose to continue her pretence that she is simply sitting on the sidelines watching the damage continue, or will she now do all she possibly can to encourage the honourably negotiated settlement which would clearly be in the national interest?

Mrs Thatcher: No, I will not have a meeting at No 10 and call both sides together in any way. This strike was always unnecessary. It has gone on too long and I hope those men on strike will think carefully about their positions and return to work.

There must be closures on economic capacity just as much as there must be development of new and low cost capacity. The longer this strike goes on, the greater the danger to the pits left unworked. More pits could be closed through being damaged beyond repair than are envisaged for closure by the Board.

The package on offer to the miners is extremely generous. The coal industry has a prosperous future ahead of it and miners should get back to work to take advantage of these excellent prospects.

Mr Hattersley: She flatters herself. Nobody is suggesting for a moment that pit peace talks should be held under her chairmanship or could possibly succeed under the chairmanship of someone so pathologically opposed to trade unions.

What we are asking and what I

am asking her to say today, is that she will not prevent the coal board from entering into negotiations with a flexibility which is essential if there is to be lasting peace?

Mrs Thatcher: He cannot possibly have read the statement put out by the chairman of the National Coal Board this (Thursday) morning. I do not blame him for that; we cannot be set up to date. (Conservative laughter) He says: "We are willing to sit down as a matter of urgency with all the unions to discuss a revision of the Plan for Coal," and Mr MacGregor went on: "I have already been in touch with the unions and we are happy to discuss it if we tackle our current problems

and now it has gone up from 20p to £1.50. There are obviously three files here. Why is the Prime Minister not telling people what the Government is planning for them?"

Mrs Thatcher: I have just been asked by Mr Hattersley to intervene and I persisted and will continue to persist to refuse.

I said on April 18 1979 that I doubt very much whether any responsible government could say that over a period of five years regardless of any change in the value of money, that it would not set up prescription wages. Mr Hattersley must not confuse his questions to what he reads in the newspapers.

Mr Anthony Blair (Sedgefield, Lab): How can the Prime Minister credibly maintain that she has not intervened in the coal dispute when British Rail is instructed to settle its wage claim to gain tactical advantage over the miners and talks in terms of no surrender as if it was a military campaign in the South Atlantic?

The criticism is not that she has not intervened, but that her intervention has been to prolong and not to settle the dispute.

Mrs Thatcher: Those who are prolonging the dispute are those who called out the miners in the first place. A quarter of the miners did not listen and continued to go to work.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): It is a pity that the Staffordshire miners who continue working cannot look to Mr Hattersley for moral support. His political career makes the Vicar of Bray a model of consistency. (Laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: I agree wholly with Mr Cormack about the last part. The Labour Party will always encourage anyone who is on strike and in this strike the miners are divided. Many miners continue to work and I hope that the rest will return. In view of the excellent conditions offered in the question.

I understand from what Mr MacGregor said this morning that more miners have applied for voluntary redundancy than were needed to meet the target for reduction of manpower this year. This Government has put money into the industry because it believes in the future of the industry.

Mr Hattersley (the added later) would prefer the railways to come out on strike, rather than staying at work and earning honourable money for their families.

She also promised that prescription changes would not be increased

scarcely this industry has a good future. He will give high wages and security.

Mr Andrew Mackay (East Berkshire, C): Will she commend the way our excellent police force has imperiously upheld the rule of law on the picket lines during the dispute and strongly condemn those in the Labour Party and elsewhere who have used the police as a political football to further their own extreme political ends?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I gladly respond to both parts of the question.

Mr Frank Haynes (Askefield, Lab): How can she expect the people of this nation, particularly the electorate, to believe that this Government is not planning to increase VAT on food, bearing in mind that the Prime Minister promised that she was not intervening in the coal dispute and said that in 1979 she promised "just a few Christmas" would reduce unemployment and has more than doubled it.

She also promised that prescription changes would not be increased

Emphasis is moving from tail to teeth

DEFENCE

The statement of the defence estimates for 1984 reaffirmed the Government's commitment to NATO and continued conviction that the Alliance must have first call on Britain's defence resources. Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said when opening the defence debate in the House of Lords.

The main challenge would continue to come from the Warsaw Pact, he said, and the Government believed the collective security achieved through Nato provided the best defence.

The Government remained committed to playing its full part in ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Alliance while at the same time remaining determined to achieve progress on arms control and seeking a better understanding with the Soviet Union.

The Government's aim was security at the lowest possible level of cost. It wanted to see steady and positive results in the various arms negotiations, and the speedy resumption of those now suspended.

There had been substantial growth in the defence budget since 1979. The figure for 1984/85 of £17,000 million meant more money per capita in absolute terms on defence than any of the allies except the United States.

Within the finite resources available, the Government was seeking the best mix of fighting capability, with emphasis on innovation from the support tail to the teeth of the actual fighting capability.

The size of the Trident force would be the minimum necessary to provide a deterrent which would last into the next century. Its cost of £8,700 million had not changed, other than for inflation or exchange rate fluctuations, and more than half the sum would be spent in Britain.

The Government was convinced that expenditure on conventional

equipment could not produce the same deterrent value of Trident.

Lord Boston of Faversham, for the Opposition, said one fear of many experts was that by spending so much on Trident our conventional forces would be weakened when there was growing support for deterring possible Soviet aggression by getting a better balance of conventional forces in Europe.

There were grave and genuine doubts about the Trident programme and the Government should at least have a look at this and make a fresh assessment. There was still a good deal of uncertainty about the dual key and control of United States missiles in Britain.

Lord Kennet (SDP) said there should be a re-examination of Trident not yet necessary to choose a successor to the Polaris system.

Lord Carver (Ind), a former Chief of the Defence Staff, said a far more radical approach to defence procurement within Nato was needed. If a strong combined European effort could be achieved, different European nations and their firms would have to specialize and stop trying to compete with each other in everything.

He hoped that the resuscitation of the European Union might help. France, Germany, Italy and Britain were the key countries. If Holland could be brought along as well, with its important electronics industry, all the better. These countries could agree it did not greatly matter if the other members of Nato did not. The necessity to reach agreement with all of them could make much too unwieldy an organization.

If the Defence Secretary wished to have a more radical approach to defence procurement on the lines suggested instead of mucking about with the chiefs of staff.

General John Allen, who is a watchdog over the society's handling of complaints, says this is one of the chief lessons to emerge from the affair, which, although exceptional, severely damaged the society's reputation.

He says it has eroded public confidence in the society's willingness and ability to investigate complaints fairly and to take disciplinary action when appropriate.

Sometimes the practice of delaying disciplinary action was right in order to avoid placing the solicitor at risk of "double jeopardy". But in such cases, he says, he "cannot emphasize too strongly" that the client should be told of the postponement.

Disciplinary action might be necessary to protect the complainant client or others from further instances of professional misconduct.

General Allen defends his own report on the affair, in which he says he was far more critical than he or his predecessor had previously been of the society's performance.

However, the society's "very positive and appropriate response" should do much to "restore the confidence of both the profession and the public in the fairness and efficiency with which the society investigates complaints".

General Allen received 281 complaints in 1983 and accepted 165 as within his powers. Of 143 cases completely dealt with, the society was criticized in 11.

Ninth annual report of the Law Society (Stationery Office, £2.85).

Private sponsorship not subsidy

THE ARTS

It would be unrealistic to expect a substantial increase in arts expenditure in the near future, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said when opening a Commons debate on the arts and heritage.

Instead, the Government believed there were significant opportunities for support from other sources, notably business sponsorship.

The new business sponsorship incentive scheme offered to contribute 25 per cent for every 75 per cent put down by business. Such a scheme could unlock additional money for the arts from commercial sources.

He believed anxieties over the effect on the arts of the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties had been reduced by the announcement of an extra £34m from central funds for support. Lower tier councils should also pick up some of the responsibility and arts activities of an essentially local nature should look to local support.

I cannot yet announce the arrangements in each case (he added), but satisfactory arrangements will be made to maintain the important provision of museums whose sources of funding will have to change with the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties.

In a period when great restraint had to be applied to the arts expenditure, the Government had recognized the need to maintain a substantial allocation of resources for heritage purposes. The provision for 1984-85 was £64m.

The Government intended to provide a heritage exemption from VAT. The Government therefore intended to move an amendment to the Finance Bill which would allow a substantial relief to the owners and developers of these historic buildings included in the statutory list compiled by the Secretary of State. It was a substantial concession.

The Government, with the advice of consultants, is studying the potential of the Chatham Historic

Dockyard, and with the cooperation of Kent County Council, had facilitated the setting up of a private trust to manage and promote the yard under the concept of a living dockyard.

The Government had given the trust an endowment of over £1m but it would be for the trust to secure its own sources of longer-term commercial and institutional investment.

The setting up of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission had not affected the department's responsibility for the care and management of the Royal Palaces and opening the so-called "unoccupied" palaces to the public. It included the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace.

These palaces were big business and their revenue earning capacity must flourish to contribute towards the cost of their upkeep.

We will shortly be appointing a commercial manager seconded from the private sector (he said) to assume responsibility for the trading operation at the palaces, to build on last year's achievement of an increase in sales receipts of 28 per cent. We hope that he will bring the necessary commercial expertise to enlighten, display and presentation and to improve the "image and profitability" of the palaces.

His department had also commissioned consultants to undertake historic surveys of the Royal Parks. Most of the reports had been received and his department was considering them. The exercise

should bring a more sharply defined understanding of the components that made up the individual character of each park, and an idea of priorities for action.

Mr Norman Buchan, Opposition spokesman on the arts said the Government had moved with political pique to deal with Ken Livingstone by abolishing the GLC and the metropolitan county councils without any idea of what structures were going to take their place.

Local authorities were facing an intolerable dilemma. They would have to choose between old people's homes and quarters, between schools and theatres. They were being asked to match funds from the Arts Council but they did not have the money.

There was great fear in the arts about the consequences of rate-capping, cutting and abolition.

Under this Government the future for the arts was grim. Labour would have a ministry of arts and communications in the widest sense, covering music, theatre, and dance as well as broadcasting, cable television and films.

For the first time they would have a powerful ministry in defence of the arts, the minister would be in the Cabinet.

The Arts Council should be made more representative and should contain elected representatives of various areas of activity, both local government and the arts. Labour would also abolish VAT on the arts.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday and Tuesday: Debate on the defence estimates.

Wednesday: Roads (Scotland) Bill, progress on remaining stages.

Thursday: Debate on Opposition motion on new technology. Piece Hall, Halifax (No 2) Bill, second reading.

Friday: Debate on the civil aviation industry.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Regional Transport Bill,

third reading. Trade Union Bill, committee, first day. Video Recordings Bill, report, third day.

Tuesday: Trade Union Bill, committee, second day.

Wednesday: Debates on the arts: post adult education; and on the New Ireland Forum.

Thursday: Health and Social Security Bill, committee, third day. Appropriation (No 2) (Northern Ireland) Order.

Friday: Ordnance Factories and Military Services Bill, second reading. Debate on the Lebanon.

Argentina and Spain criticized

The British Government took exception to the terms of the joint communiqué by Spain and Argentina on Gibraltar and the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr John Staker (Hastings and Stourbridge, C) had asked if she had read the declaration in Madrid about the respective claims to the Falklands and Gibraltar.

Without mentioning Trafalgar (he said amid laughter) will she tell them that we are not frightened by this sort of thing, and that if they want our support to enter the EEC, Spain had better not do it again.

Mrs Thatcher: Naturally, we take exception to the terms of the joint communiqué by Spain and Argentina, which is so far as it is distorted the true position of Gibraltar and the Falklands, and particularly the fact that the Falklands are a British overseas territory.

We stand absolutely by our commitment to respect the wishes of the people of Gibraltar and by our commitment that the wishes of the people of the Falkland Islands are paramount.

Divorce Bill provision unchanged

The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill, which amends the law on divorce was read the third time early today (Thursday) by 119 votes to 16. During the course of the debate the night's Labour proposal to amend the clause in the Bill requiring courts to take into account the conduct of each party, where it would be disadvantageous to disregard it, was defeated.

The Opposition (the added later) would prefer the railways to come out on strike, rather than staying at work and earning honourable money for their families.

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The Speaker apologizes for remarks

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, apologized unreservedly to any MPs who might have been offended by his remarks at a luncheon on Wednesday when he targeted the first year of the present parliament as "the frustration parliament".

Mr Weatherill's comments were raised on a point of order by Mr Denis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab). During the course of the debate yesterday (he said) that went on until 2.30 this morning I had a chance to read *The Times* newspaper in which you were quoted as length on an important matter.

You were quoted as saying some Conservative MPs had got in here by mistake. It would not be a bad idea if we were provided with a list of those MPs (laughter).

The Speaker: I understand some light-hearted remarks by me at Press Gallery lunch have been reported and may have caused offence to some MPs. I am deeply sorry about this and apologise unreservedly if that is so.

The burden of my speech was to underline the importance of this Chamber and my dedication to it and to those MPs who elected me to the Chair exactly one year ago today (cheers).

Lay Observer criticizes Law Society for delaying action

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society's failure to take disciplinary action against a solicitor if a client is already bringing legal proceedings himself is strongly criticized by the Lay Observer in his annual report published yesterday.

He says the practice should be re-examined in the light of the "disastrous" Glanville Davies affair in which a solicitor, council member was struck off after legal proceedings by a client who was overcharged by £131,000.

That was a "clear-cut case, and the only case I have seen, in which the society should, in my view, have brought proceedings against the solicitor before the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal at the appropriate stage but failed to take any steps to do so". The Lay Observer says.

The Lay Observer, Major-

General John Allen, who is a watchdog over the society's handling of complaints, says this is one of the chief lessons to emerge from the affair, which, although exceptional, severely damaged the society's reputation.

He says it has eroded public confidence in the society's willingness and ability to investigate complaints fairly and to take disciplinary action when appropriate.

Sometimes the practice of delaying disciplinary action was right in order to avoid placing the solicitor at risk of "double jeopardy". But in such cases, he says, he "cannot emphasize too strongly" that the client should be told of the postponement.

Disciplinary action might be necessary to protect the complainant client or others from

further instances of professional misconduct.

General Allen defends his own report on the affair, in which he says he was far more critical than he or his predecessor had previously been of the society's performance.

However, the society's "very positive and appropriate response" should do much to "restore the confidence of both the profession and the public in the fairness and efficiency with which the society investigates complaints".

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Flying start: The Virgin Atlantic airline which starts cheap flights to Newark, New Jersey, from London Gatwick next week, yesterday unveiled the uniform for its flight staff. Modelling it are Mr Paul Hassett, Miss Linda MacDonald and Miss Louise Davy (Photograph: John Voos).

Brothers who sold glue kits have sentences cut

Two brothers who were each jailed for three years for selling glue-sniffing kits to children had their sentences cut to two years by the Court of Criminal Appeal in Edinburgh yesterday.

Lord Justice-General Lord Emslie said that the court wanted to make it clear to people similarly convicted in future that there were very special circumstances in the case which permitted the court

to restrict the penalty to two years.

In the absence of particular mitigating circumstances, more severe sentences might be expected for similar breaches of the law.

The judge did not appear to

have given any weight to the fact that although the brothers knew that their actions were morally wrong, socially evil and disgraceful, they genuinely believed they were not breaking the law, he said. They had persisted in their dangerous trade despite the efforts of the police, local councillors and local people who had demonstrated outside the shop, he said.

The brothers knew how reprehensible their trade was, but in the circumstances, some of which were wholly special to the case, the sentences of three years were excessive.

Khafiz Raja, aged 24, and Ahmed Raja, aged 29, both of Bolton Drive, Glasgow, pleaded guilty in the High Court

Falklands today: Lewin thinks back, Argentina looks ahead

By Alan Hamilton

Twice in his life Lord Lewin has seen a convoy set sail to free a beleaguered island. The first occasion provided an invaluable lesson for the second.

As a naval officer sailing to Malta in 1942, he saw more than half his convoy lost through enemy action, but the remainder managed to bring relief to an island which otherwise would surely have capitulated.

Sitting in the War Cabinet Room of the House of Commons in 1982 as Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff, he felt able to reassure the Prime Minister that the task force could repossess the Falklands despite the loss of ships.

Fall, softly spoken, and now retired to the calmer waters of the House of Lords, he said on the eve of yesterday's second anniversary of the Argentine surrender, that he never for a moment doubted that the task force would achieve its objective. His greatest regret remains that it had to set sail at all.

He said he had great sadness that the task force had to be sent, but that it was a necessary step to deter a classic failure of potential—the consequences of which would have been clearly that of a political will and the military capability to deter his aggression.

The Argentines obviously thought that we did not have the will.

"It was a fault of the politicians, not a military failing, to allow the Argentines to think that their aggression would succeed."

Lord Lewin remains thoroughly convinced that the Falklands operation holds implications far beyond the South Atlantic. "I regret enormously the dead and wounded — on both sides — but it was a worthwhile exercise for the future of the free world."

Although the Falklanders are clearly important, the absolute

It is vital that aggression must not be seen to succeed

It is vital that aggression must not be seen to succeed. That is the way to avoid wars."

When the Argentine invasion force landed, Lord Lewin was in New Zealand, watching military exercises, but he was back in Whitehall within 28 hours.

He was uniquely well prepared. At home he had a map of South Georgia, having been patron of a British joint services expedition there which had left only two weeks before the Argentine scrap metal merchants arrived to dismantle the whaling station.

He had more than one personal bond with the operation beyond official duty. In 1966 he had been captain of the *Hermes*, and his second-in-command had been John

commodore. Lewin was an officer by the name of them. "I was in the same ship as the *Hermes*, an easy relationship between the War Cabinet and Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse's task force headquarters at Northwood."

A second bond created Lord Lewin's own low point of the entire operation — the sinking of HMS *Covetree*. "My wife and I were named, and I was with her. She had been back on board for a social visit not long before *Covetree* sailed. It was a moment of great sadness when she went down, and I argued strongly for not announcing her loss until we had a full list of the casualties."

But I was over-ruled by John Nott, and the announcement went out. It was a night of great sadness."

The highlight for him was the landing of 5,000 troops on a single night without casualties. And, of course, the surrender. He recalled: "We were sitting in the War Cabinet Room in the Commons, helping the Prime Minister to draft a statement she intended to make at ten o'clock."

"The news that the surrender had been signed came to us by a rather roundabout route. The SAS in Port Stanley had a di radio link to their headquarters in Hereford, and were providing a running commentary."

"Hereford relayed it on the phone to Northwood, and Northwood relayed it to us clustered round a phone in the Commons."

"The Prime Minister made her statement. I went with John Nott back to the Ministry of Defence to meet the press, and then I just went home to bed. No great celebrations; something of an anti-climax, really. Once we had launched the task force, and once I saw the War Cabinet's determination to back the military, I was never in any doubt that we would win."

Lord Lewin had been planning to spend at least part of his final year as Chief of the Defence Staff accepting an invitation from his opposite number in China to visit the battlefields of the Vietnam border war. But that had to go by the board.

When he left the ministry he took with him no Falklands souvenirs, but a spiral-bound notebook in which he had made daily aides-memoirs during the campaign and devoid of any obsessive interest in it. It went as planned, and the losses were about what had been expected.

"I try to forget it now," he said. "It was an episode in my life but my life held much more than that. But the story of the Welsh Guardsman, Simon Veston, told in *The Times*, earlier this week, still moves him to a brief, brooding silence."



Lord Lewin: Regrets that the task force had to go to the South Atlantic at all.

From Douglas Tweedale

Buenos Aires

There is a new, more aggressive tone to official Argentine rhetoric about the Falkland Islands these days, making it clear that the "Malvinas issue" is far from buried in Argentina.

Two years to the day after their troops were defeated at Port Stanley, Argentines remain as convinced as they were before the conflict that the South Atlantic archipelago belongs under the Argentine flag.

Celebrations of June 10, the "Day of Reaffirmation of Argentine rights over the islands, ranged from a fiery speech to the Armed Forces by the civilian President, Sr Raúl Alfonsín, to art exhibitions aimed at teaching grade four children about Our Malvinas."

Last night two groups of former conscripts, both of which support their country's effort to recover the Falkland Islands, were scheduled to go ahead with marches to mark the second anniversary of Argentina's defeat.

Only a few months ago a billboard, 50ft by 100ft, was set up in Buenos Aires, carrying a blue-and-white map of the South Atlantic and the legend: "Malvinas are Argentina."

How to explain that lasting attachment to a goal that seems, at least in the near future, unobtainable?

Our way is not war... but we will not cease in our claims

Mr James Nelson, an Englishman who emigrated to Argentina and became editor of the English-language *Buenos Aires Herald*, says that "Argentines feel obliged to feel strongly about the Malvinas. They see the islands as their national birthright, something that was stolen from them when their country was very young."

For generations Argentine children have had the slogan "Las Malvinas son Argentinas" (the Malvinas are Argentine) drilled into them in every Argentine history class they take, and the country's latest civilian government has not changed the curriculum.

Political parties have included the goal of recovering the islands from Britain for as long as anyone can remember and president Alfonsín's middle class Radical Party is no exception.

Sr Alfonsín was one of the few politicians who dared to speak out against the military's

dismal invasion attempt while the war was still in progress, but he has now become the country's chief advocate for getting back the islands.

"Our way is not war," he said last Sunday, "but in the name of our dead we must commit ourselves not to cease a single instant in our claims."

Mr Neilson explained the Government's new tough line in political terms. "The Malvinas is an issue of such blinding simplicity that it is hard to resist. Whenever the country's other problems get too complicated, it is very convenient to turn to an issue where right and wrong are so clearly defined."

Mr Neilson believed that Sr Alfonsín will be appealing more and more to nationalist sentiment as his government wrestles with its huge foreign debt, union troubles and a skittish military.

That reasoning is exactly what led the military into the Falklands morass in the first place, but there is no fear that Sr Alfonsín's administration (of any other) would be foolish enough to try the military tack again.

President Alfonsín seems assured to win support for his "diplomatic offensive" to wrest the islands from Britain's grasp, but only so long as that offensive costs no money or lives.

Memorials to the dead unveiled at Stanley and Yeovilton

A memorial to the servicemen killed during the Falklands conflict was unveiled at the Fleet Air Arm museum, Yeovilton, Somerset, yesterday.

The bronze plaque, which depicts the Task Force in action, is the duplicate of one dedicated in Port Stanley yesterday.

A small group of relatives attended the unveiling at the museum, which adjoins the Royal Naval Air Station.

The unveiling ceremony was carried out by Captain Michael Clapp who, as Commodore Amphibious Warfare, was responsible for the planning and execution of the island landing.

He praised the relatives for having the courage to attend the ceremony. Each April to mid-June, he said, he remembered with pride the landing and the horror of the fighting in which so many lives were lost. That horror would continue for many years.

The memorial in the Falklands would be seen daily by the people of Port Stanley. "They will remember their friends who died for them and for democracy, and they will remember their friends who got back home."

Among those present was

Mrs Sara Jones, wife of Colonel "H" Jones, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross she said afterwards that there would be a permanent reminder in Britain for relatives to visit.

That view was echoed by Mrs Rosemary Anslow from Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, who attended with her husband, Alfred. Their son Adrian, aged 20, died after the Atlantic Conveyor was struck by an Exocet missile.

The Port Stanley memorial is the islanders' tribute to the 255 British servicemen and three women island civilians who died during the conflict. It stands in front of the secretariat building and faces the sea.

A sculptured figure of Britannia is surrounded by the bronze plaque of the servicemen in action. The names of the dead are on bronze plates on either side.

Botha tour hailed as putting end to pariah status

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, was welcomed home as a conquering hero from his eight-nation European tour by his jubilant followers yesterday. His Boeing 747 was escorted by a flight of five Mirage jet fighters, and as he touched down at Cape Town's D. F. Malan Airport, a 19-gun salute boomed out while massed choirs sang.

"I did not go to Europe to ask for favours but went to talk openly and frankly on subjects important to South Africa, southern Africa and Europe," Mr Botha declared in a brief speech after the arrival ceremony. He said he had told foreign leaders that South Africa was "on a path of renewal."

He had found a growing awareness abroad that South Africa was a regional power which could not be ignored in

Walesa hint at halting union role

From Roger Boyes

Warsaw

In a surprising and rather enigmatic statement, Mr Lech Walesa the leader of the banned Solidarity union, said yesterday that he was considering suspending his Solidarity activities after national local council elections due to be held on Sunday.

He also stated clearly that he was not trying to influence Polish voters for or against the elections, which the Government has killed as a major test of strength against the Solidarity underground.

Mr Walesa has already said that he and 40 other members of the Solidarity leadership will not take part in the elections, but he has always stopped short of calling for a boycott.

His statement, delivered unexplained to reporters over the telephone, seems to suggest that if the elections produce a convincing result for the Government he will no longer try to challenge the authorities on behalf of Solidarity.

"In connection with a growing number of questions on the subject of the elections, I state that I do not want to influence voters' attitudes as I want to know the true situation," he said.

"It is possible that after June 17 I will suspend my activities. I pledge to serve the people and not lead them by the hand."

Speculation centered on the possibility that Mr Walesa had been told of a move to release some or all of the 600 political prisoners if the Government managed to secure a large turnout.

Bracing itself for a turnout rather less than the Communist norm of 99.9 per cent, the Polish Government has announced that as many as a million Poles will probably not have the chance to cast their vote in the elections.

Solidarity underground leaders have called for an all-out boycott of the elections to embarrass the Jaruzelski Government.

The Government for its part has plastered the country with posters urging the maximum turnout, and published a stream of articles denouncing the boycott call.



Comrades converse: President Chernenko of the Soviet Union (left) and President Husak of Czechoslovakia during a meeting in the Kremlin.

Chernenko rejects appeal for dialogue from West

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Chernenko yesterday offered the West "honest détente" in a closing speech to the three-day Comecon summit in Moscow. But in an interview with *Pravda* the Soviet leader emphasized the Kremlin's current hard line, rejecting a call for long-term dialogue from last week's Western summit in London.

Mr Chernenko told the Comecon leaders yesterday that a "dangerous test of strength" with the United States was "not our choice, not our policy. We will be able to stand up for ourselves, let no one have any doubt about that," Mr Chernenko said. But he summed up the talks by saying Russia and its allies offered "an alternative to the growing military threat."

"We urge all states, all who stand for détente, all who are against nuclear madness, to make joint efforts in this direction."

The summit, the first for 15 years, adopted a political declaration entitled: "The maintenance of peace and international economic cooperation," and a statement of

"Basic guidelines" for future economic cooperation within Comecon. The statements will not be published until tomorrow.

Mr Leonid Zamyatin, chief Kremlin spokesman, told a press conference that the political declaration "accused Washington of causing world instability and creating the threat of war."

In his interview on the front page of *Pravda* Mr Chernenko accused Western leaders at the London summit of "political duplicity" for urging Russia to resume talks while continuing to deploy American missiles in Europe. He said it was high time America and its allies confirmed their responsibility for peace by "concrete deeds."

The Soviet leader did not elaborate, leading some diplomats to speculate that he had

deliberately avoided reiterating Moscow's demand for the total withdrawal of cruise and Pershing, although the phrase "concrete deeds" usually refers to this demand.

In his closing summit speech Mr Chernenko said his call for "joint action" was addressed to "socialist countries not represented at this meeting" (an apparent reference to China) and to developing countries. But it was also aimed at the Western powers. "We offer honest terms for peaceful coexistence," he said. "Socialism does not need war. It will prove its advantages through peaceful competition."

The Comecon summit, convened after years of delay and conflict, took place in strict secrecy, with no details released until yesterday.

Differences on economic policy still unresolved

East European sources said yesterday that the three-day Comecon summit had not resolved points of difference despite a joint declaration on economic cooperation (Richard Owen writes).

Sources said the meeting had emphasized the joint political declaration because Russia and its allies found it easier to agree on the East-West situation than on hard economic issues such as integration, the barrier system, the transferable rouble and energy policy. There were also outstanding differences on trade with the West, sources said.

The summit declarations are to be published tomorrow. Officials said the delay was to enable member countries to issue the declarations simultaneously once delegations had returned home.

In his closing remarks President Chernenko said the value of integration had been proved since the last summit in 1969. The 1984 statement on "harmonizing economic policy" should enable Comecon to "use the advantages of socialist integration better," the Soviet

leader said. But he added pointedly that summit decisions would not produce results of themselves, and "active and purposeful" implementation was needed.

Mr Chernenko said there had been a "frank, detailed and fruitful exchange of views" on Soviet block cohesion and unity. Observers said this pointed to resistance to Moscow's integration policies by East European leaders such as Janos Kadar of Hungary and Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania.

The summit agreed on coordination of member countries' five-year plans up to 1990, and a long-term integration plan for the decade after that.

Officials said yesterday at a press conference that Comecon members such as Hungary had the "sovereign right" to join Western bodies like the International Monetary Fund. But sources said Hungary's IMF membership and close Western links had irked the Kremlin.

Officials claim that national income in Comecon countries increased by nearly 70 per cent between 1970 and 1980.

Muldoon calls snap general election

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

New Zealand will go to the polls in an early general election on July 14, Sir Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, announced last night. Parliament, which has sat for only two weeks this year, is to be prorogued immediately. The normal three-yearly election has been scheduled for later this year, probably in November.

The prime minister said the decision had been precipitated by the action of Miss Marilyn Waring, a Government backbencher, who yesterday informed the Government whip that she would no longer attend the caucus. While she would support the Government on procedural motions and all matters of substance, she would reserve her position on disarmament matters and rape legislation.

Her defection is critical to the Government, which has been ruling with an effective majority of one after appointing the Speaker from its ranks. The state of the parties in the single chamber Parliament is National Party 47, Labour 41, Social Credit two, Independent two.

Miss Waring, aged 31, who has been in Parliament since 1975 and is a champion of disarmament and women's

causes, was one of two Government members who voted with Labour earlier this week on a Private Member's Bill seeking to ban visits by nuclear warships. The Government was able to defeat the measure by mobilizing the support of the two Independents.

Mr David Lange, the Labour leader, welcomed the prospect of an early poll saying he was overjoyed. The Government's decision was to be from a deepening economic crisis and its inability to cope with it, he said.

Some MPs were stunned by the decision. The National Party is believed to be not as well prepared for battle as Labour, which has chosen all its candidates and has its economic policy in place.

An opinion poll published this week put the two principal parties neck and neck in the popular ratings, though with Sir Robert well ahead of Mr Lange in the leadership stakes.

The timing has some advantages for the National Party, inflation, which the Government reduced to 3.5 per cent this year from a high of 18 per cent two years ago, is beginning to rise again.

Communist gains shown by Berlinguer funeral

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Communist Party's national executive is expected to meet on Monday, in the wake of the results of the European elections, to seek a decision on a new leader to succeed Enrico Berlinguer.

The huge following at Signor Berlinguer's funeral on Wednesday has once again raised the possibility that the Communists could emerge from the elections as Italy's biggest party. It is understood that President Persiani himself has impressed on political leaders that, if the Communists moved ahead of the Christian Democrats, the sensible course would be to avoid over-dramatizing the event.

The President is a Socialist, but he never concealed his high regard for Signor Berlinguer, and at the funeral was photographed bowing to kiss the coffin.

What is quite clear is that the death of Signor Berlinguer has imposed a greater sense of responsibility.

It is no longer taken for granted that the coalition will have to fall whatever the results of the European elections. A week ago political commentators were convinced that relations between the five parties comprising the Government had become so bad that a collapse was inevitable.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, is now taking much more confidently. He accepts that there are still difficulties and that the results of this weekend could make the life of his Government still more difficult. But, in the appeals he is preparing to deliver just before the voting booths are opened, he speaks as if he genuinely believes that he will be able to carry on.

Kohl confirms refugees in Berlin mission

From Michael Binyon

Rome

Chancellor Kohl yesterday officially confirmed press reports that up to 19 East Germans have sought refuge in West Germany's mission in East Berlin and are trying to emigrate to the West.

He told a new conference that his office was in constant touch with the East Berlin authorities about the refugees, said to have been in the mission for several weeks.

So far this year some 70 East Germans have been allowed to emigrate after fleeing into Bonn's diplomatic missions in East Berlin and Prague.

Madrid meeting on ETA raids across border

From Harry Debilias

Madrid

The French Interior Minister, M. Gaston Defferre, conferred here yesterday with his Spanish counterpart, Señor José Barrio-nuevo, about measures which the Spaniards hope will end the violent activities of Basque terrorists crossing the border.

A draft document under consideration by both governments would reportedly permit French authorities to revoke the political refugee status under which members of the Basque separatist group, ETA, reside in France, and to expel or deport many of them. Spain would be committed to accepting ETA members who chose repatriation and who are not wanted

Pastora ready to fight on without US backing

From Alan Riding

Caracas (NYT) — Señor Edén Pastora Gómez, the Nicaraguan rebel leader who was wounded in an assassination attempt two weeks ago, says he will continue his fight against the Sandinista Government even if the United States withholds support for his efforts.

In an interview in a private clinic here, Señor Pastora said his forces had received no help from the United States for the past 10 weeks, in what he viewed as pressure to force him into an alliance with Honduran-based rebel groups backed by the CIA.

But he reiterated his refusal to deal with the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FON) until it is "purged" of all figures linked to the ousted Somoza dictatorship. Instead, Señor Pastora said he planned to seek support in Latin America.

"Our achievement is to have

gone as far as we have without losing our independence," he said. "For many, to be independent is worse than to be a communist. When the word was put out that I was the only obstacle to unity of the Nicaraguan opposition, I realized I was condemned."

But Señor Pastora said he had still not decided who was responsible for the bomb that exploded at a news conference just inside Nicaragua on May 30, killing 10 people, including two journalists. "I can think of sound reasons why both the left and the right might have done it."

After the bombing, Señor Pastora was first treated in San José, Costa Rica, and soon afterwards was flown here through the personal intervention of a former President of Venezuela, Señor Carlos Andrés Pérez. Señor Pastora is now convalescing from burns on 40

per cent of his body and severe shrapnel wounds in his left leg.

Lying in a tiny room in the Policlínica Metropolitana, protected by three Venezuelan soldiers and accompanied by close aides, Señor Pastora, who was known as "Commander Zero" during the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, spoke of his options.

"The first thing I have to do is to return to the mountains," he said. Even if the following day I must leave to seek aid, I have to return for political reasons." He added that supply lines to his forces in southern Nicaragua must be reopened urgently, because economically we're in a terrible situation. I have no allies in Washington."

He said that neither the United States nor the Nicaraguan Democratic Front had responded so far to any of his demands.



Señor Pastora: Speaking from his hospital bed.

PM appeals to miners to think again and return to work

Early birds . . .

Wiscasset, Maine (AP) — Worm diggers have called off a seven-week strike designed to back up their demand for an increase in the price of Maine





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Nine men who tried to kill the Pope

As speculation grows about the death of his predecessor, new evidence appears on the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II. Claire Sterling reveals the results of the official Italian investigation

Three years almost to the day since Pope John Paul II was shot and nearly killed in St Peter's Square, Italy's judicial investigation has come to a close. After reviewing some 25,000 pages of documentation gathered by Judge Ippolito Martelli, the State Prosecutor has made his decision. He has asked for the indictment and trial of nine foreign nationals — three Bulgarians and six Turks — for conspiring to assassinate the Pope.

His 28-page report points to an elaborate conspiracy involving Turkey's neo-Nazi Grey Wolves, the Sofia-based Turkish Mafia and, in the prosecutor's words, "organisms and individuals of the Bulgarian state".

The three Bulgarians facing indictment, all operating in Rome when the Pope was shot, are described as "agents of the Bulgarian secret service".

Tramatic evidence also indicates active involvement by the Bulgarian Embassy itself. The Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca, whose confession implicated the others, is described as "a despicable mercenary" and no mean liar in his own right. Nevertheless, the role of his confession seems to have stood up under severe scrutiny.

Every declaration of Agca's, every circumstance and detail, was checked and investigated," says the report. In the end, Agca is convincing in his reconstruction of the crime.

Since Agca started to confess in May 1982, Bulgaria in particular has branded him as a villain in an imperialist plot against the communist East, reached in prison by the Italian security services and/or CIA. Prosecutor Antonio Albano dismisses this as "archaic cold-war propaganda".

What follows is the State Prosecutor's description of the evidence found as the court's investigation proceeded. The narrative comes, directly from his text: my own remarks are in brackets.

Agca's behaviour had baffled Italian interrogators from the start. He began to talk, exactly a year after his arrest. For all his erratic assertions and retractions, Agca's confession "was coherent and firm in the substance of the charges he made".

Regarding his main accomplices, the Turkish Grey Wolf leaders Oral Celik and Musa Serdar Celibi; the Turkish Mafia boss Bekir Celik; and the Bulgarian nationals Sergei Antonov, Todor Avazov and Vassilev.

In the first days of July 1980, "with a false Indian passport in the name of Yaginder Singh" — the fugitive Agca went to Sofia. At once upon his arrival Agca looked up a fellow Turk named Omer Mersan, in Room 911 of the Hotel Vitosha.

During his stay in Bulgaria, Agca was helped in several ways by Mersan. "A wheeler-dealer

agent extremely well-connected with Bulgarian authorities, dedicated to a traffic of arms, drugs, and contraband of all kinds."

It was Mersan who "reserved Agca's room" at the Vitosha, gave him money on the orders of Abuzer Ugurlu (the godfather of the Turkish Mafia) and furnished documents permitting his sojourn in Sofia. Mersan also put him in contact with Bekir Celik, a potent Turkish Mafia boss.

Bekir Celik in turn arranged a meeting towards the end of July 1980, between Agca and a "Sotir Kolev", agent of the Bulgarian secret services and "a functionary of the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome." This turned out to be Todor Avazov, the Embassy's treasurer.

Agca's close friend Oral Celik also in Sofia by then, took part in that and three or four other such meetings in the Bulgarian capital.

During these meetings with "Kolev" that summer, agreement was reached on the "conceptual, organizational and contractual bases for the assassination of Pope Wojtyla, to be carried out in spring 1981."

The motive, centred on Poland. "The Bulgarian secret services had a specific political interest in killing Pope John Paul II. . . . The (imposing rise) of Solidarity in Poland that summer, and consequent social convulsions, constituted a most acute crisis for the socialist states of Eastern Europe. This was perceived as a mortal danger to their political cohesion and military strategy."

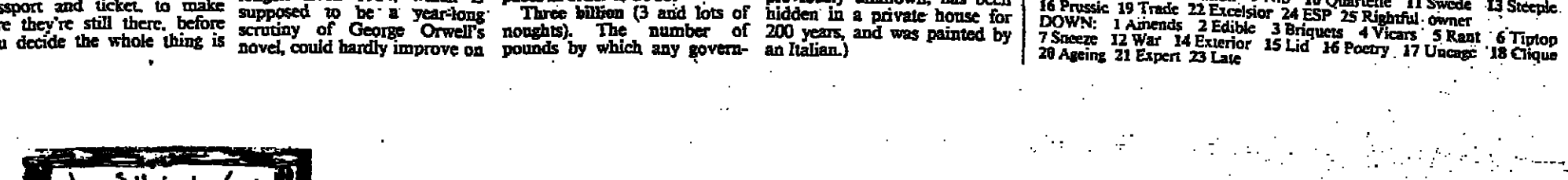
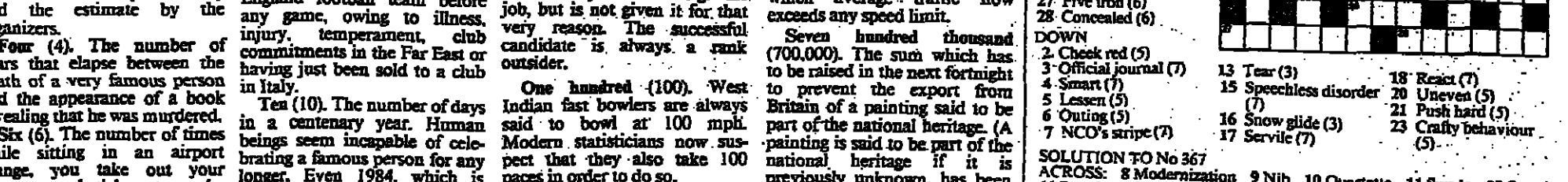
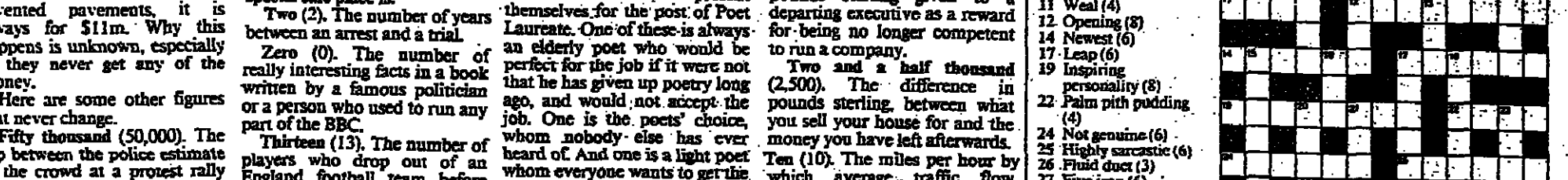
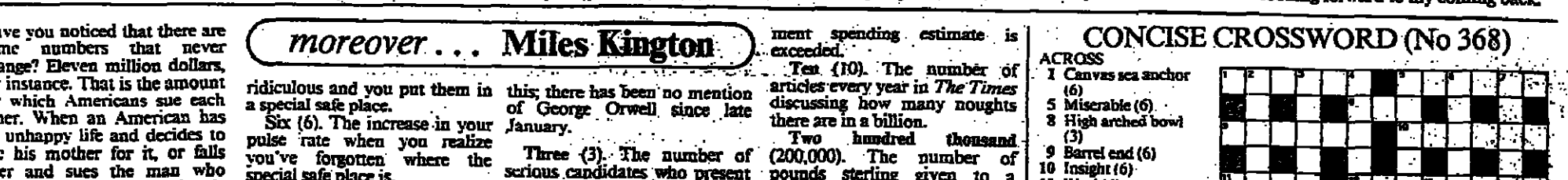
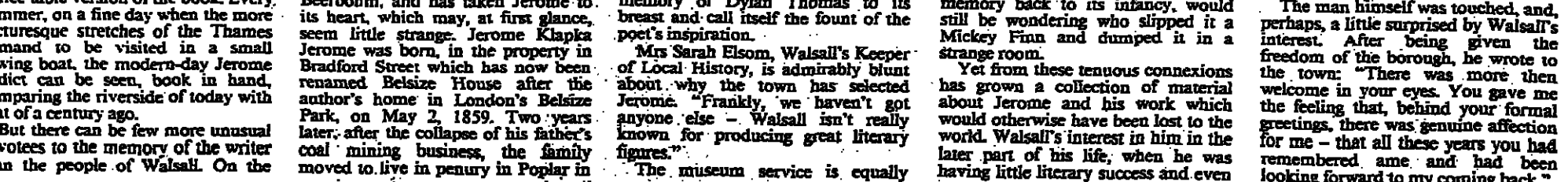
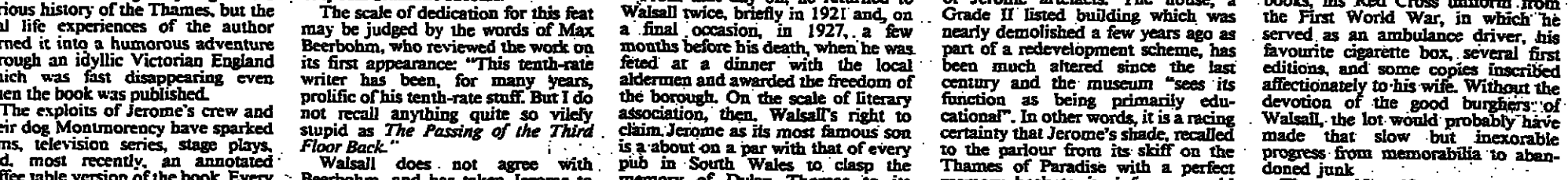
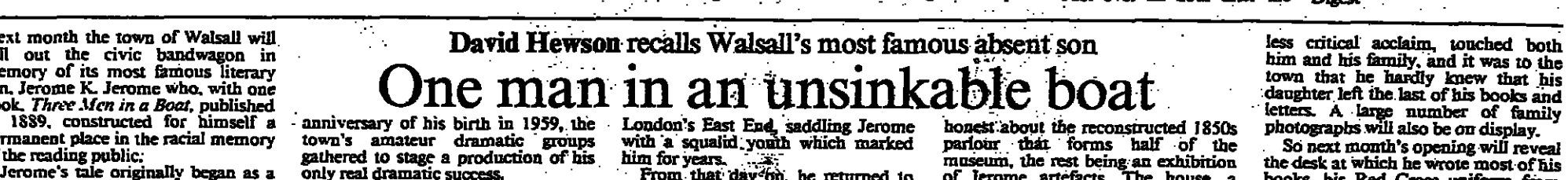
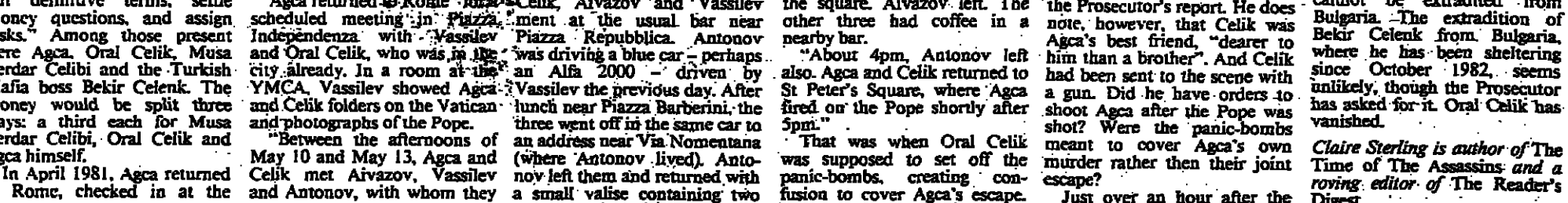
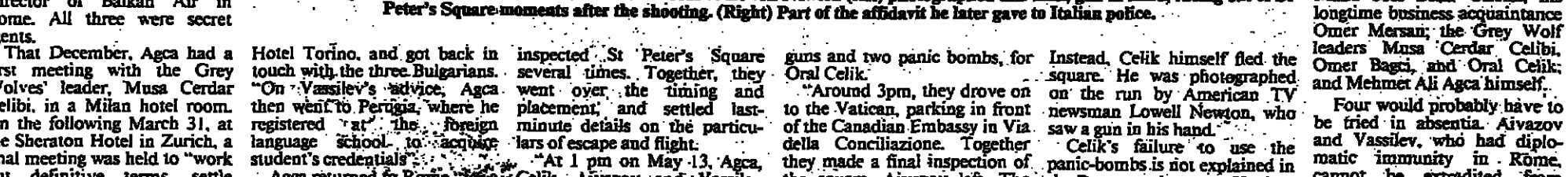
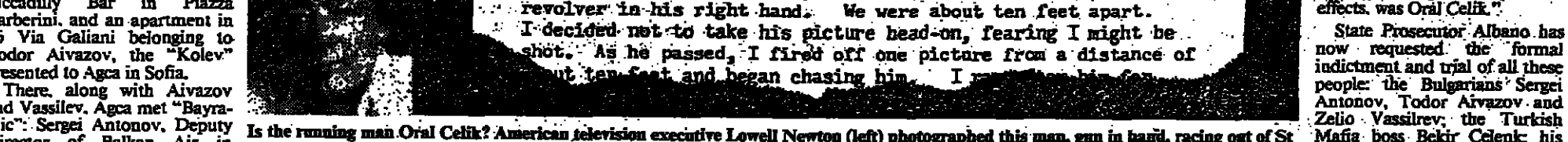
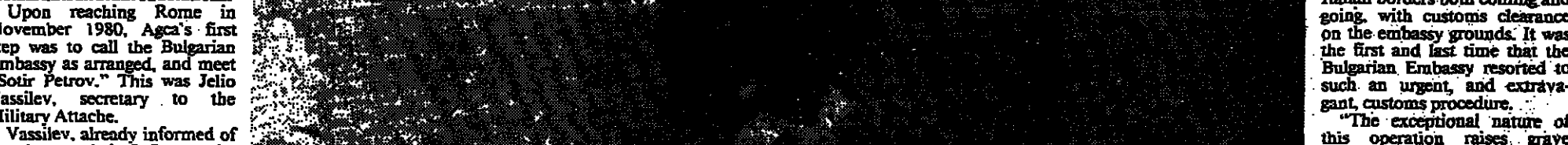
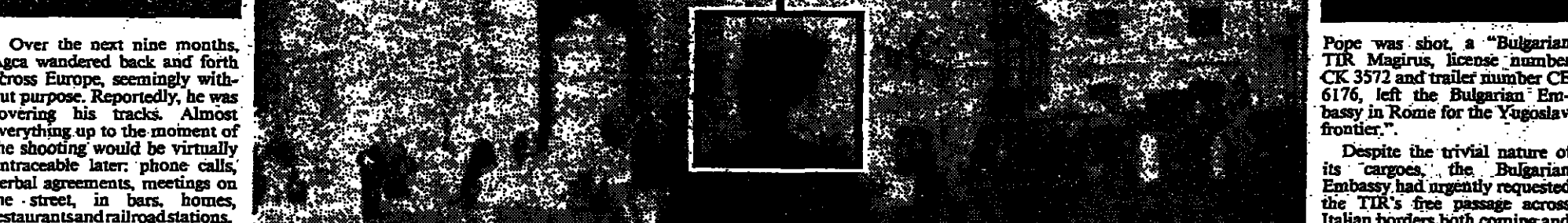
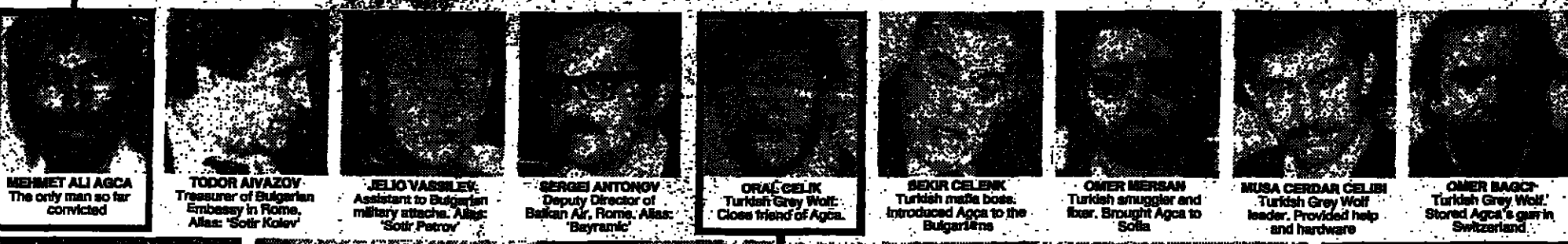
Since Poland's ideological collapse was mostly due to the fervid religious faith of the population, sustained and helped above all by the first Polish Pope in history, the Polish rebellion might be greatly weakened and fragmented by this Pope's "physical elimination."

The machinery of the plot would be set up like this: "1) Through Bekir Celik . . . the Bulgarian services contracted with the Turkish terrorists Agca and Oral Celik for the organization and execution of the plan."

"2) The Bulgarian secret service was committed to: a) Paying, through Bekir Celik, of Deutschmarks (roughly, £650,000) to be evenly divided between Agca, Celik, and the leader of the Turkish Grey Wolves' Federation in West Germany, Musa Serdar Celibi. Closely tied to Oral Celik as a fellow-Grey Wolf, Celibi was also associated intimately with the Mafia boss Bekir Celik."

"b) Safe and undisturbed refuge in the Bulgarian port of Varna, on the Black Sea."

"c) Arrangements and facilities for flight, for Agca and Celik, through immediate departure from Italy by TIR (Transport International Routier) truck or diplomatic vehicle."



Pope was shot, a "Bulgarian TIR Magirus, license number CE 6176, left the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome for the Yugoslav frontier."

Despite the trivial nature of its cargo, the Bulgarian Embassy had urgently requested the TIR's free passage across Italian borders both coming and going, with customs clearance on the embassy grounds. It was the first and last time that the Bulgarian Embassy resorted to such an urgent, and extravagant, customs procedure.

"The exceptional nature of this operation raised grave suspicions," writes the State Prosecutor. "Our financial police know all too well what can happen after a TIR truck is sealed."

What was so immensely important and useful in the TIR's cargo that the Bulgarian Embassy should make such unique demands for urgency? We must conclude that on board that TIR truck . . . hidden among those personal effects, was Oral Celik."

State Prosecutor Albano has now requested the formal indictment and trial of all these people: the Bulgarians Sergei Antonov, Todor Avazov and Vassilev; the Turkish Mafia boss Bekir Celik; his longtime business acquaintance Omer Mersan; the Grey Wolf leaders Musa Serdar Celibi, Omer Bagci, and Oral Celik; and Mehmet Ali Agca himself.

Four would probably have to be tried in absentia. Avazov and Vassilev, who had diplomatic immunity in Rome, cannot be extradited from Bulgaria. The extradition of Bekir Celik from Bulgaria, where he has been sheltering since October 1982, seems unlikely, though the Prosecutor has asked for it. Oral Celik has vanished.

Claire Sterling is author of *The Time of the Assassins* and a roving editor of *The Reader's Digest*.

David Hewson recalls Walsall's most famous absent son

One man in an unsinkable boat

Next month the town of Walsall will roll out the civic bandwagon in memory of its most famous literary son, Jerome K. Jerome who, with one book, *Three Men in a Boat*, published in 1889, constructed for himself a permanent place in the racial memory of the reading public.

Jerome's tale originally began as a serious history of the Thames, but the real life experiences of the author turned it into a humorous adventure through an idyllic Victorian England which was fast disappearing even when the book was published.

The exploits of Jerome's crew and their dog Montmorency have sparked films, television series, stage plays, and, most recently, an annotated coffee table version of the book. Every summer, on a fine day when the more picturesque stretches of the Thames demand to be visited in a small rowing boat, the modern-day Jerome addict can be seen, book in hand, comparing the riverside of today with that of a century ago.

But there can be few more unusual devotees to the memory of the writer than the people of Walsall. On the

anniversary of his birth in 1959, the town's amateur dramatic groups gathered to stage a production of his only real dramatic success.

The scale of dedication for this feat may be judged by the words of Max Beerbohm, who reviewed the work on its first appearance: "This tenth-rate writer has been, for many years, prolific of his tenth-rate stuff. But I do not recall anything quite so vilely stupid as *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*."

Walsall does not agree with Beerbohm, and has taken Jerome to its heart, which may, at first glance, seem little strange. Jerome Klappa Jerome was born in the property in Bradford Street which has now been renamed Belsize House after the author's home in London's Belsize Park, on May 2, 1859. Two years later, after the collapse of his father's coal mining business, the family moved to live in penury in Poplar in

London's East End, saddling Jerome with a squalid youth which marked him for years.

From that day on, he returned to Walsall twice, briefly in 1921 and, on a final occasion, in 1927, a few months before his death, when he was feted at a dinner with the local aldermen and awarded the freedom of the borough. On the scale of literary association, then, Walsall's right to claim Jerome as its most famous son is about on a par with that of every pub in South Wales to clasp the memory of Dylan Thomas to its breast and call itself the fount of the poet's inspiration.

Mrs Sarah Elsom, Walsall's Keeper of Local History, is admirably blunt about why the town has selected Jerome. "Frankly, we haven't got anyone else — Walsall isn't really known for producing great literary figures."

The museum service is equally

honest about the reconstructed 1850s parlour that forms half of the museum, the rest being an exhibition of Jerome artefacts. The house, a Grade II listed building which was nearly demolished a few years ago as part of a redevelopment scheme, has been much altered since the last century and the museum "sees its function as being primarily educational". In other words, it is a racing memory back to its infancy, would still be wondering who slipped it a Mickey Finn and dumped it in a strange room.

Yet from these tenuous connections has grown a collection of material about Jerome and his work which would otherwise have been lost to the world. Walsall's interest in him in the later part of his life, when he was having little literary success and even

less critical acclaim, touched both him and his family, and it was to the town that he hardly knew that his daughter left the last of his books and letters. A large number of family photographs will also be on display.

So next month's opening will reveal the desk at which he wrote most of his books, his Red Cross uniform from the First World War, in which he served as an ambulance driver, his favourite cigarette box, several first editions, and some copies inscribed affectionately to his wife. Without the devotion of the good burgess of Walsall, the lot would probably have made that slow but inexorable progress from memorabilia to abandoned junk.

The man himself was touched, and, perhaps, a little surprised by Walsall's interest. After being given the freedom of the borough, he wrote to the town: "There was more than welcome in your eyes. You gave me the feeling that, behind your formal greetings, there was genuine affection for me — that all these years you had remembered me and had been looking forward to my coming back."

moreover . . . Miles Kington

ridiculous and you put them in a special safe place.

Six (6). The increase in your pulse rate when you realize you've forgotten where the special safe place is.

Two (2). The number of years between an arrest and a trial.

Zero (0). The number of really interesting facts in a book written by a famous politician or a person who used to run any part of the BBC.

Thirteen (13). The number of players who drop out of an England football team before any game, owing to illness, injury, temperament, club commitments in the Far East or having just been sold to a club in Italy.

Ten (10). The number of days in a century year. Human beings seem incapable of celebrating a famous person for any longer. Even 1984, which is supposed to be a year-long scrutiny of George Orwell's novel, could hardly improve on

this; there has been no mention of George Orwell since late January.

Three (3). The number of serious candidates who present themselves for the post of Poet Laureate. One of these is always an elderly poet who would be perfect for the job if it were not that he has given up poetry long ago, and would not accept the job. One is the poet's choice, whom nobody else has ever heard of. And one is a light poet whom everyone wants to get the job, but is not given it for that very reason. The successful candidate is always a rank outsider.

One hundred (100). West Indian fast bowlers are always said to bowl at 100 mph. Modern statisticians now suspect that they also take 100 paces in order to do so.

Three billion (3). Lots of pounds by which any government spending estimate is exceeded.

Ten (10). The number of articles every year in *The Times* discussing how many noughts there are in a billion.

Two hundred thousand (200,000). The number of pounds sterling given to a departing executive as a reward for being no longer competent to run a company.

Two and a half thousand (2,500). The difference in pounds sterling between what you sell your house for and the money you have left afterwards.

Ten (10). The miles per hour by which average traffic flow exceeds any speed limit.

Seven hundred thousand (700,000). The sum which has to be raised in the next fortnight to prevent the export from Britain of a painting said to be part of the national heritage. (A painting is said to be part of the national heritage if it is previously unknown, has been hidden in a private house for 200 years, and was painted by an Italian.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 368)

ACROSS

1 Canvas sea anchor (6)
5 Miserable (6)
8 High arched bowl (3)
9 Barrel end (6)
10 Insight (6)
11 Weal (4)
12 Penning (5)
14 Newest (6)
17 Leap (6)
19 Inspiring personality (8)
22 Palm pith pudding (4)
24 Not genuine (6)
25 Highly sarcastic (6)
26 Fluid duct (3)
27 Five iron (6)
28 Concealed (6)

DOWN

2 Check red (5)
3 Official journal (7)
4 Smart (7)
5 Lesson (5)
6 Outing (5)
7 NCO's stripe (7)

13 Tear (3)
15 Speechless disorder (7)
16 Snow glide (3)
17 Servile (7)

SOLUTION TO No 367

ACROSS: 8 Modernization 9 Nib 10 Quarantine 11 Swede 13 Steeple

DOWN: 1 Amends 2 Edible 3 Briquets 4 Vicars 5 Rant 6 Tiptop

7 Sledge 12 War 14 Exterior 15 Lid 16 Poetry 17 Uccage 18 Claque

20 Ageing 21 Expert 23 Late

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



Victor Gollancz House in Kenilworth Park, Kenilworth

- Travel: Silk and samurai in Kanazawa; peace on Iona
- Sport: Mitchell Platt's reports from the US Open
- My perfect day: Basil Boothroyd
- Family Money: Living dangerously with commodities
- Bernard Levin: The Schubertiade
- Values: Toy town in the garden

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Drink on 1983 claret; Turkey Life looks at second homes; Review of this month's video releases; In the Garden; a selected guide to the week's arts; Bridge, Chess and the Prize crossword

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FRIDAY PAGE

Now a middle aged enfant terrible, film director Roger Vadim has written his first novel. As Bel Mooney discovers, he has to live down his reputation for liaisons with beautiful women before he is taken seriously

Legends of a man and his women

"Let me tell you, I have a fantasy," said Roger Vadim, "that when I die I will arrive at the gates of heaven, and St. Peter will be there. He will say: 'We are pleased to see you, you have been a good man, and in a moment I will show you to your place. But first, tell me this...' (Vadim leans forward in his chair, acting the inquisitive angel) ... how were Brigitte, Deneuve, and Fonda when they were young? What were they like? When they come up here they will be old ladies and we will never know, so tell me, just what were they like?"

Vadim's interestingly battered face (a blend of Bogart and Aznavour) is showing the 56 years now; as well it might, since the man carries much weighty myth about with him, so heavy that at times the galle ship seems transformed into a stoop. One myth is, of course, his own: the enfant terrible of the late 1950s *nouvelle vague*, and starmaker extraordinaire. But the other three legends are more potent, one of them ranking with Munro - who at least did not survive to have tabloid telephone lenses focused on her middle aged privacy.

So what has Roger Vadim done? He married Brigitte Bardot, and lived with the imperious, independent Catherine Deneuve, and created Barabarella Fonda, before he turned to politics, feminism, and making much money out of the body-beautiful. There was also the marriage to Bardot-clone Annette Stroyberg, and a later legal union to an heiress called Catherine Schneider, as well as publicized, passing liaisons with pretty girls. And now M Vadim is a novelist, and wants to be his own man. But he knows quite well that few people would show interest in his first novel, were it not for the women he carries about his neck like so many large, feathery albatrosses.

When this subject arises (as it must) Vadim says emphatically that

he does not care, yet tosses the cigarette packet from hand to hand in agitation, rises, sits down again, shrugs, smokes. "It is... how do you say?... the other side of the medal. It is inevitable that someone who has married the most famous and beautiful women in the world will have to pay for it. It is more interesting to journalists than the fact that I am a serious director. I know this. I was a journalist once, on *Paris-Match*. No, I am not bitter, but sometimes I regret that people don't talk more about the movies. Three of them - *And God Created Woman*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *Barabarella* - are part of the course at UCLA. But 99 per cent of the time people ask me about the ex-wives. Now, even writing is not enough... (he grins) ... Listen, I will write a novel about three men alone at the North Pole, and I will still get asked about my marriages, and it will be suggested that I write about three men alone because I had three wives, and I have had enough of women!" He jokes, but he is not really amused.

So: to change the subject. Vadim's autobiography (published in 1976) was called *Memoirs of the Devil*. His first novel, published in France, America, and now here, is called *The Hungry Angel*. The title betrays, as so much of an interest in Judgment Day, as an instinct for self-dramatization and a snappy headline. Both books are partly true, and partially about himself. He wishes now he had been more honest in that bland autobiography, but was unwilling to tell all about shh-you-know-who - even though pictures of them all appeared on the book-jacket. When it came out he said, "I want a new label as a writer", and a publisher offered him a contract for a novel. He says he rewrote the first chapter of *The Hungry Angel* five times because he had no confidence, and delivered four years later. He explains the title: "It is about a boy



"I write about three men all alone at the North Pole and still get asked about my marriages says Roger Vadim, above, whose wives and lovers have included Brigitte Bardot, top, Catherine Deneuve, Jane Fonda and (below) Annette Stroyberg

of 16 (as Vadim was) who, after four years of German occupation, is hungry for emotion, for freedom, for action, for love..." Suddenly he sounds very, very Vadim, with that peculiarly French way of speaking of passion as the English talk about the weather: as something uniquely their own.

Unprepossessing in brown cords, and beige tweed jacket, Vadim is hesitant in conversation, because, he says, he is shy. But he loosens slightly when we get on to his latest film - not the one starring Christian, his son by Deneuve, but the one he is currently planning. "It's a story about a very special young woman. She is a walking paradox, being a very cerebral, creative person, but also an anarchist: very free about her body, about sex. I thought the studio might be excited if I told them this would be a version of *And God Created Woman* - 1985. I thought they would think that very commercial."

Alors, we are drawn back into the past, to 1956, when *Et Dieu Créa la Femme* made the young Bardot a

star. Vadim had made 22 films, and appears to see no irony that he himself is ready to invoke his first to seal his latest. Then, unasked, he talks about his relationship with Ann Biderman, an American screen writer, saying that he is not jealous if a woman is successful in the same field, and that people were wrong to imply that he moulded his women: "To help people is not to control them. I like to give them faith in themselves, to help them gain confidence. As far as Brigitte Bardot was concerned, she was very young, 15 years old, when I met her, but I never said, 'do this, do that'. It is the same with children. You have to give them their own identity."

I start to ask a question, change the subject, but he continues. "For example, when Brigitte was a brunette she decided to change the colour of her hair. I was a little sad, because I like brunettes. But movies were beginning to be made in colour, and directors liked blonde hair. She said to me, 'If I was a star, if I was Ava Gardner, they would accept me as I am.'"

"So she changed, and I said nothing. I have to admit that though she was very charming as a brunette, the blonde hair gave something more to her personality."

He does not see so much of Bardot now, because he lives in California within walking distance of Jane Fonda, with whom he is great friends. But if he is in St. Tropez he calls. I point out that though he has four children (daughters by Stroyberg and Fonda, sons by Deneuve and Schneider) he and Bardot had no child, so nothing to keep them bound. Immediately he seems defensive, even sadly so: "We didn't have a child, but then for at least 15 years after the divorce we had the movies we did together. And by that time a child would have been grown up nearly..." It is as if some private regret had been disturbed.

Vadim is a amiable man, whose first concern on entering his suite at the Waldorf Hotel, is to make a long phone call to his ten-year-old son, Vania. It is hard not to recall that all the famous women walked out on him: Bardot, Stroyberg and Deneuve

for other men. Fonda for politics and freedom. He once said, "They all changed as they became famous". Hearing him hope, with some anxiety that his first novel gets "good critics" (and they might say that it is erotic and engaging, while bad ones would say it is formless, and badly written) it is easy to forget the diabolical Vadim myth altogether, and see him as a rather lonely and rootless man who wants to be seen to do well. He rolls a dry cigarette around his lips, and becomes a character, not in a Vadim film, but perhaps a Bergman, speaking lines that ring true: "We have an expression which says I have been very comfortable in my skin. But I do have moments of depression. They come on me suddenly, and everything is grey, or dark blue. I have no feeling for life at such times. I am like a Russian character in a novel by Dostoevsky". *Mon Dieu* there was a novelist who knew about angels and devils.

The Hungry Angel by Roger Vadim, published by Sidgwick & Jackson (price £8.95).



Holiday risks

Last year, UK residents made more than 17 million trips abroad. Nearly one and a half million went to Spain from Gatwick alone.

But a holiday abroad is not without risk. Anyone who goes to a Third World country without first going through a battery of vaccinations is open to cholera, polio, typhoid - even rabies and plague in some parts of Africa, Asia and the Americas.

But even those who manage to avoid the more serious illnesses are highly likely to suffer some milder troubles on holiday.

Help at hand

If you are suddenly ill abroad the last thing you will want to worry about is the quality of care you might receive. But a horrifying report in *Holiday Which?* (May, 1983) published by the Consumers' Association revealed low standard of care in hospitals abroad.

One solution is to make sure your travel insurance includes a repatriation clause - if it does not, and you need to travel home, you may be saddled with a bill of at least £5,000. Many package tour operators provide repatriation facilities with their travel insurance.

Shot in the arm

For the best protection you should have your first vaccinations six to eight weeks before your holiday but it is never too late for part of the course - even three or four days before you go. The table shows which jabs are recommended in different countries; some recommendations embrace vaccination requirements.

● **Polio:** Generally advisable unless trip confined to Europe, N America, Australia and New Zealand. Two doses six to eight weeks apart; third dose four to six months later gives immunity for at least five years. Course can be accelerated to three doses, six weeks apart if time is limited.

● **Tetanus:** Everyone should be protected - even UK residents. Two doses six to 12 weeks apart; third dose six to 12

MEDICAL BRIEFING

SPECIAL

months later gives immunity for at least five years.

● **Typhoid:** Advisable unless trip confined to N Europe, N America, Australia and New Zealand. Two doses four to eight weeks apart gives protection for three years. If time is short the interval between the doses may be reduced to 10 days plus a booster one year later for the three-year protection. If you are going away for a fortnight you can have the first dose just before you leave and finish the course when you return; some protection is better than none.

● **Yellow fever:** Essential for travel in parts of Africa and S America. One dose, valid 10 days after jab, gives a valid certificate for 10 years. Remember if you visit a country where yellow fever is endemic but vaccination is not mandatory you may run into problems trying to enter a yellow-fever-free area if you are not vaccinated.

● **Cholera:** Essential or advisable for Africa, India, Asia and Middle East. One dose only needed for the certificate. Second dose gives little additional protection but should be given one to four weeks after the first.

● **Infectious hepatitis:** Recommended where hygienic standards are suspect. People over 40 are advised to have a hepatitis A antibody test. It is more expensive than the vaccination but if it is positive you will never need another vaccination. If you are at risk you should be protected. A single dose, depending on its size, lasts three or six months.

● **Rabies:** Recommended for Africa, India, Asia, Middle East, South America. Two doses, four weeks apart; third dose six to 12 months later. When you travel again only a single booster will be needed. A blood test three weeks after second dose can confirm adequate protection. Children are particularly vulnerable; they are liable to be bitten in the face which means a shorter distance for the rabies virus to reach the brain.

● **Malaria:** Central and South America, Africa, Middle East and Asia. Preventing malaria is very complicated and depends on the country and length of stay. If you are short of time buy Paludrine at a chemist but

it is advisable to check with a vaccination or tropical disease centre.

● **Smallpox:** This disease officially no longer exists and vaccination is not required.

Tummy trouble

Everyone has the bacteria *Escherichia coli* or *E. coli* in the gut but most people adapt to the toxins of British varieties. Travel diarrhoea strikes when we encounter the new strains in other parts of the world against which we have no protection.

This form of travellers' diarrhoea generally attacks suddenly and within a few days of arrival. Usually the diarrhoea lasts no more than two or three days.

E. Coli is water borne so it is difficult to avoid. A few simple precautions will prevent more serious infections such as viral hepatitis, dysentery and typhoid.

If you have any doubts about the local sanitation and water supply:

1. Only drink boiled water. Watch out for ice-cubes, they too can be contaminated.
2. Alcohol does not make a drink safe but bottled drinks are usually safe.
3. Only eat thoroughly cooked meat and fish.
4. Eat only cooked vegetables. Salads are best avoided.
5. Only by ice cream from large firms.
6. Never buy food from street traders.
7. Avoid bathing in potentially contaminated water, including some parts of the Mediterranean.

If you do become ill it is best to starve yourself for 24 hours. Avoid all solids, milk and alcohol and drink plenty of purified water. Introduce fruit juices and weak soups on day two. Otherwise healthy adults can take antidiarrhoeal drugs but they are not recommended for anyone with an underlying bowel problem.

Diarrhoea in small children and babies can be dangerous. Breast feeding is the best prevention, but otherwise take special care in sterilizing feeding equipment. If a child gets diarrhoea stop solids and milk.

It is vital to ensure that infants do not become dehydrated, and consult a doctor. Children should not be given antidiarrhoeal drugs.

Most doctors are reluctant to prescribe prophylactic antibiotics, because indiscriminate use could promote drug resistance in the bugs which cause travellers' diarrhoea.

Seek medical help if a bout of diarrhoea does not clear up quickly or if you or anyone with you suffers from any of the following: persistent vomiting, blood or mucus in faeces, extreme exhaustion or frequent watery stools in a young child.

Counting the cost

The confusion over charges for travel vaccinations is compounded by the NHS system for paying GPs to give them.

Some are covered by "public policy"; and patients who need these vaccinations will not have to pay.

Public policy does not, however, cover all recommended vaccinations. If you request an unlisted vaccine your GP is entitled to charge you. The British Medical Association recommends £7.

Your GP will be able to supply most vaccines. Yellow fever is only obtainable from special centres. A complete list appears on DHSS leaflet SA35 *Protect your health abroad* available from travel agents and local DHSS offices. Charges range from £2 to £6 or more.

Your GP can administer the less common vaccinations - like those for rabies and hepatitis - but may have to order supplies. You will be charged for the rabies vaccine and injection; injecting immunoglobulin against hepatitis comes under public policy.

Strictly, the yellow fever vaccination certificate is the only mandatory one but some governments demand a cholera vaccination certificate. You will probably be charged around £3 for a vaccination certificate.

Centres like the British Airways Travel and Immunization Centre, 75 Regent Street W1 (Tel: 01-439 9384) or the PPP Medical Centre, 99 New Cavendish Street W1 (Tel: 01-637 8941) or Thomas Cook Ltd, 45 Berkeley Street W1 (Tel: 01-499 4000) provide a full vaccination package. Bear in mind they are not part of the NHS so the costs may seem high.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

From the founder member of Pink Floyd

Roger Waters

and

**ERIC CLAPTON
MEL COLLINS
MICHAEL KAMEN
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THE TIMES DIARY

Anyone for Ten?

So exuberantly dull is the Euro-election that even Cabinet ministers are reluctant to get involved. Keen to interview senior figures for its election special this Sunday, Radio 4 presenter Brian Redhead approached, successively, Norman Tebbit, Trade Secretary, Michael Heseltine (Defence), Patrick Jenkin (Agriculture), Tom King (Employment) and Nigel Lawson (the Chancellor). Thank you but no, they said. Finally Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, agreed to speak on Sunday - but only by telephone from Luxembourg. BBC television fared a shade better after much casting around, but only secured Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, and Norman Fowler (Health), neither of whom has much to do with Europe. I am assured the fact that Lawson is hosting a garden party for Tory bigwigs at his Leicestershire home on Sunday is totally unconnected.



● Mark Batchelor, London North East's Tory Euro-candidate, modestly fails to list under "Conservative Achievements" in his leaflet the most spectacular coup of all. According to the accompanying map, the Community has annexed East Germany and Liechtenstein.

Ranjit's revenge

The Victoria and Albert Museum faces its own, more pressing version of the Elgin Marbles syndrome. It is the gold-sheathed throne of Ranjit Singh, founder and ruler between 1799 and 1839 of the last Sikh kingdom in the Punjab. After his death the British annexed the kingdom and "removed" the throne, but it is now becoming an increasingly potent symbol to Sikh nationalists. In 1978 the V & A declined to "lend" the throne to India, and now Harchand Singh Longowal, militant leader of the Sikh Akali Dal party, has announced his support for its return. For the time being, however, the V & A can fob off Sikh approaches by saying it will consider only requests direct from the Indian government. In the circumstances, that is the last thing that government would do.

● Moray Council on Alcoholism has just held its annual general meeting - at Milnott's malt whisky distillery, outside Elgin.

Time fuse

A reason given by Neil Kinnock for resigning as Michael Foot's PPS in 1975 was to finish a book on Anurin Bevan's speeches. In the 1975 *Who's Who* entry, Kinnock says that *As Nye Said* was published that year. In his 1976 *Who's Who* entry, he says it came out in 1976, and in 1978's he gives the publication date as 1977. In 1979 and again in 1980 he says the book came out in the same year as the current editions of *Who's Who*. Yesterday it transpired it has never been published. George Drower's biography of the Labour leader - which will be published by Weidenfeld next month - reveals that when challenged on the alleged publication, Kinnock stammered: "It's... in four cardboard boxes, in the attic at the moment, having been moved there from the garage. Er, I just haven't had time to finish it off."

Man and boyo

Kinnock is not all talk. "Ebullient, slapdash and of average intelligence," the Labour leader may have some little academic work at university, but tells his biographer "I had a hell of a good time." He claims he excelled at chatting up the girls, and did "a fair bit of courting." When he first spotted Glenys - a former Miss National Savings beauty queen - he was "determined to pick her up at the Saturday night dance." Unfortunately a rugby injury - and a couple of pints, "caused him to swoon and collapse on the dance floor." Shades of Brighton beach?

Six-cylinder

After my report yesterday on British Rail being condemned for advertising its Inter-City trains as punctual, I hear that Toyota has also been lambasted. The *Sunday Mirror*, which carried the first pictures of the Wallon sexcuplets in December, printed a full-page ad for an eight-seater Toyota car beneath the headline: "Well done Mr and Mrs Wallon. Now, how about getting their home..." The Wallons objected, and the Advertising Standards Authority this week upheld their complaint, describing it as "an unjustifiable commercial exploitation of the Wallons' fame". The family's solicitor has now written to the *Mirror* suggesting either it does "the decent thing" and shares the estimated £15,000 which Toyota paid for the ad, or he sues.

Why Solidarity is standing trial

Warsaw Adam Michnik, a bright, intense man with a stammer, a dissident since schooldays, has always known what he wanted, for himself and for Poland. From his prison cell for the past 30 months he has smuggled out a stream of letters fighting for the right to be put on trial, a trial that would expose the whole anatomy of the Solidarity revolution and the way it was quashed. This week his wish was granted.

The fairy godmother was General Jaruzelski who, after long months of trying to avoid what will probably be the most sensitive political trial in Poland for three decades, has grinded his teeth and decided that the case of the four KOR dissidents should be brought to court.

Michnik, Jacek Kuronowa - who this week began a hunger strike - Henry Wujec and Zbigniew Romaszewski face charges of "preparing to overthrow the state with force" and a possible 10-year jail sentence. The trial will be held in a military court, which can bar the public and reporters, and, if it begins on time on July 13, will last until deep into the autumn. There is going to be no swift exorcism of the Solidarity era.

The Roman Catholic church is obviously upset. It has tried through intermediaries to negotiate the freedom of the Solidarity 11 - but the four KOR dissidents and the seven Solidarity leaders - and although talks had come to a

standstill, the prime's advisers had not entirely given up hope. The United Nations secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has also invested some effort and some prestige into trying to sell a temporary emigration ticket to the prisoners, will also be disappointed. The KOR trial has simply, by dint of being delayed for so long, acquired powerful symbolic importance.

The most obvious explanation for the trial is that it is a "concession" to Moscow. With its new leader clamouring for order, But things are never quite as simple as that in Poland.

The authorities have come round to the idea of a more or less open confrontation with KOR in the courtroom because of legal advice, possible propaganda advantage and medium-term political gains. First, the prosecution appears to have prepared a case against KOR that effectively declares many of the members' prepared defences null and void. According to KOR member Jan Josef Lipski - his charges have been suspended because of a serious heart ailment - the prosecution will try to exclude all detailed discussion of the KOR "intervention bureau" which tried actively to help workers persecuted or imprisoned after the 1976 riots. The activities of the bureau clearly show that KOR was set up as an aid to ordinary people rather than as a conspiratorial association. The pro-

secutor, by arguing that the bureau is the subject of a separate investigation, will try to factor it out of the trial, argues Dr Lipski in a recent issue of the emigre monthly *Kultura*. The second element in the government's decision is that it has gained a marginal propaganda edge. Because it was the prisoners who rejected the offer of intermediaries for conditional release - renunciation of political activities or temporary emigration in return for freedom - it is the prisoners who bear the "blame" for the trial. "They had their chance," the government can argue. "Now we have got down to business."

Finally, the announcement of the KOR trial this week, only days before local council elections, is an important part in a three-act play. The first act came at the weekend when the police arrested Bogdan Lis, one of the main underground Solidarity leaders. Moral: the underground leadership are hollow men, in the pockets of the West, and we can pick them up any time we want. Second act was the announcement of the KOR trial. Moral: we are confident enough that our arguments will win against the opposition even in court. We are not at all embarrassed. The third act comes on Sunday when the authorities will endeavour to show that 75 per cent or 85 per cent of the country is sufficiently in favour of the system to turn up at the polls, despite the

boycott blandishments of Solidarity.

The overall effect is supposed to be that of firm control and a keen sense of direction. Intellectuals with close links to the church say: "If that is what the government wants to feel, let it feel that way." In any case, they say, the West should not jump into hasty action because of the trial. If the government can feel in command and can show Moscow that this is the case, then it can afford perhaps to relax. The KOR trial is not pleasant but it is fundamentally what the prisoners wanted. If the trial allows the government to give amnesty to the some 600 other political prisoners - perhaps even including the Solidarity seven - then perhaps some good can come of it. By the time the KOR trial has ended the four dissidents will already have served almost three years in prison. A clever defence in court could conceivably have some of the charges thrown out and the prisoners may not have to spend too much time in jail.

But Solidarity members dismiss this line of thought as Machiavellian and unnecessarily defeatist. In any case, the main point of the trial would be to carry the struggle with the authorities from the streets into the courtroom, where the dry, ironic, coughs of barristers will replace the thump of tear gas canisters hitting cobblestones. Perhaps that is a kind of progress.

Roger Boyes

Peter Lennon assesses the rivals for Trudeau's mantle

Mr Blunder or Mr Backwoods?

As Pierre Trudeau lives out the last days of a reign which outlasted virtually every other contemporary world leader, Canadians might be expected to have a sense of imminent deprivation at the loss of its most charismatic prime minister. Instead they are hungry for change: there was increasing disillusionment with Trudeau's remote and autocratic style, which equated dissent with disloyalty, and his compulsory bilingualism had lost the Liberal party all its support in the west.

The Canadians are preoccupied not with Trudeau's departure but with tomorrow's leadership election in Ottawa and with the general election which will follow.

The new leader will be chosen by groups of seven delegates representing ridings (constituencies) throughout the country. "Affirmative action" on women's rights has meant that two of each group must be women. Two also represent youth.

Of the seven candidates, John Turner, aged 55, English born and former justice and later finance minister, who resigned in a huff from Trudeau's cabinet and from politics eight years ago, and Jean Chrétien, 50-year-old French-Canadian Energy Minister, are the only two left in the winning stretch.

If the Liberal Party was impatient to be rid of Trudeau it was partly because of a cherished belief that waiting in the wings was a Dauphin of such overwhelming ability and potential popular appeal that the party would pass effortlessly into a glorious revival. Having held power for 41 of the past 50 years it was beginning to dip badly below the Conservatives in the polls. When John Turner, handsome, athletic, forceful, a corporate lawyer and long-time rival of Trudeau, declared his candidacy there was an almost indecent rush of Trudeau ministers to his bandwagon - and a marked gain in the polls.

But Turner has some uneasiness to quell: after eight years it was feared he might have lost his grip on the electorate, and if he was a mediocre figure to his contemporaries, young voters were not so sure he was the man to deal with contemporary issues.

Turner's task was to demonstrate that he was a good stump politician, not just a boardroom man. To this end he invited journalists to travel



Turner: bruised image. Chrétien: a lot of catching up

with him on his campaign bus touring Quebec country ridings. Turner, fluently bilingual, was challenging Chrétien in his own province.

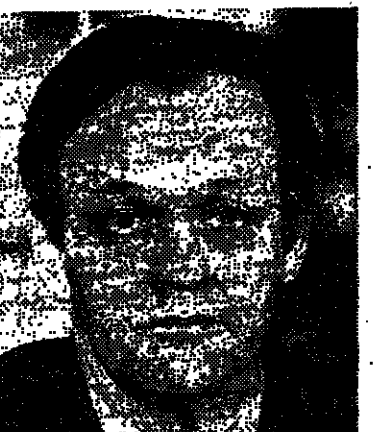
By the time we joined the coach Turner's image as an astute politician had taken a bruising. He began to be known for his blunders, and notorious for his "clarifications". He had blundered on the language issue, had drawn public fire from Trudeau on the disputed reasons for having resigned from the cabinet, and rounded on a journalist for "bootlegging" into a press conference a harmless question about capital punishment.

Later in the bus, Turner felt obliged to "clarify" what he meant by "life imprisonment" although this was in no way an issue of the election.

As the day wore on Turner worked hard on his Chariton Heston image: the grinding baritone, the jaw snapping a lame response with sardonic certainty: the fist striking a feeble point into submission. His defensiveness and lack of confidence began to be a serious worry to his supporters.

When questioned his eyes would often fill with a wild surmise like a method actor who cries out: "But what is my character?" Only on challenges concerning business - some bad investments of one of his companies, a potential conflict of interests in his directorships - did he display real confidence and decision. He was a man flailing in an attempt to live up to a myth imposed upon him.

His Rip Van Winkle problem was



evident in his handling of a new, and for macho men, treacherous element in warring delegates. Affirmative action had resulted in 33 per cent of the Liberal delegates being women. In public references to this development Turner had an unfortunate way of chuckling as if to signal the boys in the locker room that this was not really his scene, but he had to go along with it.

In office, Turner had the reputation of being a resolute minister, well able to master his dossiers and be a match for civil servants. He is the candidate of the business world. Professor Mel Watkins, lecturer in economics at the University of Toronto, who worked with Turner and headed a federal government task force on foreign ownership in the late 1960s said: "He is essentially a right-wing person. His notion of tax reform is to abolish corporate tax. He thinks there is some injustice in taxing companies."

Jean Chrétien's image problem is the reverse of Turner's. A populist, jocular man from the backwoods of Shawinigan but experienced minister - finance, Indian affairs, and now energy - he is happy on his feet punching with press and public. He has learned to sit still and sound like a statesman. In public he is given to homely declarations of love for Canada, and one of his favourite quotes is St Exupéry's "You see well only with the heart."

He deliberately chose to be interviewed in an uncharacteristic setting: his Ottawa suburban drawing room, heavily scrutinized documents through spectacles. He spoke in low, heavily accented English.

In the Sotheby's jungle, a battle for Guevara's diaries

Who do Che Guevara's diaries belong to? The question is already exercising a number of London's best legal brains. It could come to exercise several more. Indeed it has the making of an international cause célèbre, except that the cost of resolving the issue in international law would be so enormous that the matter will presumably be settled out of court.

The diaries in question are those kept by Che Guevara during his Bolivian guerrilla campaign of 1966-67. They were among his possessions when he was captured and summarily executed by the Bolivian army in October, 1967, and they have now been consigned for sale at Sotheby's the London auctioneers, by an unnamed owner. Their value is estimated at £250,000.

Late on Monday afternoon the Bolivian government, acting through a firm of London solicitors, issued a writ demanding the return of the diaries from Sotheby's. While stating that the diaries have spent most of the intervening period in a Bolivian army archive, they have so far given no indication of when or how the diaries were missing. But a suggestion that they were stolen is implicit in the claim for their return.

The auctioneers have also received a letter suggesting that the diaries properly belong to Che Guevara's next of kin. His wife, Aleida March, and five children who live in Cuba would therefore be the true owners. This is further underlined by another diary kept by Guevara's faithful lieutenant, Harry Villegas Tamayo, known as "Pombo", which was captured at the

same time and is also being offered for sale with an estimated value of £50,000.

"Pombo" is alive and well and living in Cuba. Unlike Che, he escaped capture by the Bolivian army and led the two other Cuban survivors in a 500-mile trek across the Andes to the safety of Chile. It is unclear why his diary was captured but the fact that Guevara kept notes on all the soldiers in his troop on pages from "Pombo's" notebook - now torn out and stapled together - suggests that at the crucial moment it may have been among his possessions.

So far neither "Pombo" nor Guevara's family has laid claim to the documents. The only reaction from Cuba has been a passionate denunciation in the national daily newspaper, *Granma*, of Western sources who had suggested that Cuba had any involvement in the theft of the diaries. The paper stated its indignation that "something as sacred as this document of Latin American history can be subjected to such manipulation by thieves and merchants... in the same way that yesterday without scruples they dragged chained slaves to public squares, today they sell off the inheritance of a hero dearly loved by the people."

Guevara's death at the hands of the Bolivian army set the seal on a legend. Having fought through the Cuban revolution at Castro's side and become his right hand man, Guevara smuggled himself and a tiny group of guerrillas into Bolivia in November, 1966, with the aim of creating "another Vietnam".



In the event, his little band was quickly broken. Guevara himself was captured and executed in October, 1967. After his death the Bolivian authorities went to considerable lengths to prove to the world press that he was really dead. His body was put on view in a small laundry in Vallegrande. The diaries were photographed and widely circulated. As a result, a Spanish edition was published in Cuba the following year and an English translation in America. They became arguably the most celebrated journals of their kind ever produced.

The 1966 diary is kept in a red spiral notebook, like a school exercise book; at the back Guevara has transcribed messages to and from Castro. The second covering the period from January to October 7, 1967, is kept in a medical appointment book produced by a German pharmaceutical company. "Pombo" is kept in a green plastic covered notebook and still has photographs of his wife and child in a pocket in the front flap.

The central mystery of the affair

One of the last pictures of Guevara before his death on October 9, 1967, and the final page of his diaries

remains the identity of the person or persons who consigned the diaries to Sotheby's for sale. Recent political developments in Bolivia may provide a clue. After widespread strikes the military junta that ruled Bolivia for two decades was finally persuaded to hand over power to a democratically elected government in 1982. President Hernán Siles Suazo has successfully walked a political tightrope since then, leading a left-wing government supported by the communists on one hand and by Washington on the other.

The Defence Minister, Manuel Cardenas, has been reported as saying that the diaries disappeared from the vault of Bolivia's intelligence agency before the democratic government took over 19 months ago. He is said to have ordered an investigation. This would suggest that the diaries may have left the country in the hands of one of the discredited army leaders.

It seems unlikely, however, that the present left-wing government is acting in concert with Cuba or Guevara's relatives. Their solicitor's letter to Sotheby's, explaining the basis of the government's claim to ownership, presents the guerrillas in a highly disparaging light. "They were criminals. They died. How they died does not seem to us to make any difference. We mention it only because there may well be controversy about it." There may well, indeed.

Geraldine Norman

David Watt

But we don't have to mark time too

The most important international event of the past fortnight has been the final, desperate achievement of Walter Mondale in amassing the magic tally of votes necessary for the Democratic nomination.

Nothing, of course, is certain in American presidential politics. A financial crash brought on by Third World debt; a fiasco in the Gulf; an unpopular move in Central America; or even some sudden demonstration of Reagan's age and mortality - any of these could change the picture dramatically between now and November. But Reagan has the quality Napoleon demanded of his generals - he is lucky. And sudden capitulations being therefore unlikely, the certainty that Mondale will now be Ronald Reagan's challenger in the presidential election makes it a near-certainty that the world is in for another four years of Reagan.

Would it have been otherwise if Senator Gary Hart's rival candidacy had succeeded? Perhaps it might. The Hart boom started off as a media "hype", yet he might just have beaten Reagan in November, all the same, for the simple reason that he brought an important new constituency to the Democrat camp - the "Yuppies" (or Young, Upwardly-mobile Professionals, to those who do not keep up with the latest outrages of American sociology) of California and the Midwest. This exotic but teeming breed probably voted for Reagan last time and will never vote for an old-style, high-tax-high-welfare Democrat like Mondale.

One immediate implication of another Reagan term is that we are unlikely to get much sense of substance out of summit meetings until 1989 at the earliest. The president is simply unable and/or unwilling to do serious business at these gatherings unless absolutely forced by crisis or by his colleagues to do so. Calamitous events may, perhaps, take a hand but which of the colleagues is going to stick his or her neck out? Only President Mitterrand shows any disposition for serious cooperative action on economic questions.

Another, related, point arises from the fact that the Latin American debt crisis is obviously going to be left to the technicians. Reagan cannot afford a major commercial bank failure between now and election day and he must therefore be confident that the IMF and the central bankers will be able to paper over the cracks until the debtor countries have their hoped-for balance of payments bonanza at which time the problem will dissolve.

In a way, this looks like an encouraging deduction from the apparent insouciance of the summit, until one looks at the other side of the election coin. Reagan evidently has no intention whatever of cutting back the bloated American defence budget in order to reduce the American deficit; nor will Congress in this pre-election period cut welfare. Result: no reduction of American interest rates for the foreseeable future and a strong dollar - both vastly increasing the problems of the debtor nations.

With no relief in sight from a possible Mondale victory, there will be an increasing temptation for them to put their prospective cartel into action and simply refuse to pay. The other area - immediately affected by the latest turn of events

is East-West relations. "It has been clear since the end of last year that Reagan's political advisers were sufficiently worried by the American peace movement and the possible effect of constant complaints from Europe about the President's gun-slinging image to decide to retort for the 1984 campaign. The 1983 rhetoric about the Soviet Union as an "empire of evil" would be thrown out and new equipment - reasonableness, moderation, a sincere desire for peace - installed. This machinery is already in use, as we saw in Reagan's Irish speeches.

What, if anything, does this mean in the real world as opposed to the Disneyland of the campaign? Very little. Give or take some very minor ideas, which do not even merit the name of "initiatives", the President is in effect simply standing pat on present defence, policies and challenging the Russians to change their own stance if they don't like it.

The question is whether the Russians are more likely to re-examine their position now that they see a high probability of having to deal with Reagan for another four years than they would have been if it looked as if he was in trouble. My impression, and that of recent non-Nato travellers to Moscow, is that the Russians, being realists, will eventually decide to re-examine arms control negotiations even with an interlocutor they find incomprehensible as well as detestable; but that they will not lift a finger in this direction until the election is over and probably not (for reasons of "face") until well into next year. In the meantime the probability of a Reagan victory will merely harden their public position.

The broad international prospect until well into 1985 is therefore one of immobility at best, with a possibility of financial earthquake if things go wrong. This is the kind of situation in which hidden pressures build up and the future trends gather momentum. Some of these, such as growing protectionism, can be fairly easily predicted. Others, such as a further increase of popular anti-Americanism in Europe, are more speculative. What seems quite clear is that the countries of western Europe, are not themselves condemned to immobility. On the contrary, it is strongly in their interest to take advantage of the "pause" to prepare themselves for Reagan's second term.

Ideally this would mean looking at East-West relations, macroeconomic policy, Third World debt, the Middle East, technology transfer, and a host of lesser political and economic points of friction, with a view to finding a stance which would protect common European interests against the effects of American unilateralism, and would maximize European influence in Washington. This, is not... a question certainly need not be - a question of anti-Americanism at government level. It is a matter of trying to make the Western Alliance work better in the prevailing, and now probably continuing, conditions of Reaganism. There is some ground for belief that, in principle, Mrs Thatcher recognizes this need as well as President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl. The crucial question is whether she, and they, are prepared to pay a real short-term political and economic price in their domestic environment to set this process in motion.

Philip Howard

Top ten in that other Europoll

My lords, ladies, and gentlemen; boys and girls; and the rest of you out there: I have great pleasure, and indeed privilege, in announcing the result of *The Times* poll to pick the Top Ten Greatest Dead European Writers of all time. Those of you with retentive memories will know what I am on about. For the benefit of those of you who were flicking ink pellets at the back of the class, or staring out of the window at the groundsman mowing the cricket pitch, I will give a brief résumé. The rest of you can stand down for a paragraph.

Life magazine, the French literary publication roughly the equivalent of our own beloved *TLS*, organized a Europoll of its readers and those of *The Times*, *Die Zeit*, *La Stampa*, and *El País* to pick the Top Ten Greatest Dead European Writers, hereafter referred to, for the purpose of competitiveness, as TOG DEW. Readers from one country could vote for writers of the other four, but not their own.

The four foreign publications gave their readers a short-list of 40 names to select from, with pictures and little boxes for ticks. For reasons of the new technology too complex to go into here, *The Times* merely invited its readers to send in lists of their top ten French, German, Italian, and Spanish authors. A computer collated the results on the first-past-the-post system, rather than by proportional representation: that is to say, an author voted second on the Italian list was given the same weight in the final placings as the Number Two British author, even though he may have received three times as many votes.

Is that clear? Good. Pay attention, the rest of you. Here are the final, and I promise that they really are final, results of the Great Europoll TOG DEW.

1. Shakespeare. 2. Goethe. 3. Cervantes. 4. Dante. 5. Kafka. 6. Proust and Mann (equal). 8. Mollere. 9. Joyce. 10. Dickens. Accordingly, I have pleasure in declaring that they are TOG DEW, or the Top Ten Greatest Dead European Writers of all time. For rostersmen and other star-

istic-freaks among you, I append the next 15 names in the Europoll:

11. Garcia Lorca. 12. Balzac. 13. Boccaccio and Voltaire (equal). 15. Brecht. 16. Stendhal. 17. Petrarch. 18. Victor Hugo and Schiller (equal). 20. Bandelairre. 21. Flaubert. 22. Virginia Woolf. 23. Pirandello. 24. Conrad. 25. Calderon.

Your British adjudicator would like to make a few comments. 1. Winning prizes, and coming first in polls, is not the most important thing in life or literature. There are a vast number of writers in all five countries who are never going to get on TOG DEW, but who are nevertheless going to continue to delight and amaze for as long as people read.

2. Shakespeare Rules, OK? 3. The fact that the first French writer on the list comes sixth (Proust, hurry, but surprising, *heine*) should not be taken as a jocular nod to French literature in any way inferior. The four countries each had a writer who was clearly considered a superstar. France had a constellation of stars. 4. *Par exemple*, referring back to para 3, France took seven of the top 20 places, compared with Britain's three. European perceptions of great British writers differ remarkably from British perceptions. Because of misadventure... (Whoops!) as an interesting concomitant experiment, *The Times* ran its own poll of readers to select their Top Ten British writers. Several of those voted the greatest by the Europeans (admittedly, having been set up as sitting ducks by being included on the poll sheet) did not score well on 32 British votes: perhaps some of you considered him to be, in fact, Conrad got 23 votes. And Virginia Woolf not a single vote, alas. There were 167 British voters, and most of you managed to think of 10 British writers.

5. GIGO: Garbage In, Garbage Out. Or, as they say on the farm, "What do you expect from a pig but a grunt?" Polling is a bogus science, mumbo-jumbo of charlatans. Why the media devote so much time and space and money to opinion polls beats me.

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson looks at the latest releases

The Spielberg plan for direction by numbers



Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones: as charming as Bugs Bunny

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (PG)
Empire Leicester Square

To Our Loves (15)
Camden Plaza

Friday the 13th - The Final Chapter (18)
Plaza 1

In *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* Steven Spielberg has perfected a faultlessly functioning machine for synthesizing and merchandizing excitement. The success of the marketing operation is self-evident: in the first 12 days of its release in the US alone, the film grossed more than \$68m as audiences flocked for more of what they had bought before, in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The mechanisms for generating this packaged excitement are wide open to view: the components, in order of importance, are:

TEMPO - achieved by relentless speed of action and virtuoso editing (by Michael Kahn).
NOISE - an unremitting high-

volume barrage of sound effects; and **MUSIC** - by John Williams, with a single, repetitive theme constantly rebuilding to fresh climaxes.

SETS - vast, colourful, extravagant and packed with props that can be turned to use for thrilling action. **SPECIAL EFFECTS** - of great quantity and elaboration, provided by an organization called on the credits "Industrial Light and Magic".

STORY - minimal: Indiana Jones, archaeologist and hero, does battle with evil Thugges sect for possession of magic stone stolen from poor Indian village.

DIALOGUE - plentiful, though mostly consisting of "Oh, my Gaaah!", "Oh, no", "You must be crazy!"

CHARACTERS - strictly two-dimensional and non-developing. Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford), unvaryingly resourceful, undefeated, lucky; the girl (Kate Capshaw), reacting to everything - whether an elephant ride, the threat of being boiled in oil or a banquet of monkey brains, - with the same hysterical yelps; the villains leer, snarling and unmistakably villainous.

Given these components, the object is to put them together so as to reproduce the extravagant, unrea-

listic, non-stop, violent action of animated cartoons, using human characters. With lives as charmed as Bugs Bunny, Indiana and his friends are able to fall unharmful out of an aeroplane, landing safe and sound in a rubber dinghy, or survive a crazy switchback ride in a runaway car.

The violence is a vital part of the effect. An American organization concerned with the morals of the media has estimated that *Indiana Jones* contains 215 separate acts of violence, 39 attempted murders and 14 summary executions by the hero. We shall not equal the count in this country: the British Board of Film Censors, ever concerned to save us from our baser selves, have cut several shots.

Most of the time this purely mechanical function as a device to excite is plain and subtle as a sledgehammer. From time to time - like the witty opening with Ms Capshaw singing the Chinese version of "Anything Goes" - there are reminders that Steven Spielberg used to make films, too.

Maurice Pialat's *To Our Loves* (*A Nos Amours*) is undoubtedly a film; not the collection of a factory, but instantly recognizable as the work of its idiosyncratic maker. Suzanne

(Sandrine Bonnaire) is a further addition to Pialat's series of portraits of adolescents in crisis. She is an attractive, pleasant, normal girl, though cursed with a difficult family.

Outside the home she feels challenged by the need to be in love. (In the opening of the film we see her playing, with deep engagement, a role in *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*.) Undemonstrative, she fears she has "a dry heart". In search of some undefined ideal romantic fulfillment, she perversely sends away the one boy who loves her with intense and unswerving tenderness. She drifts into quite pleasurable promiscuity; satisfies her family by marrying a pleasant, devoted, unexciting boy; and is last seen following in father's footsteps and abandoning her marriage - leaving with another man for San Diego.

Pialat's films tend to be slices of life cut rather at random; and such is *To Our Loves*, which he admits contains biographical elements contributed both by himself and by his editor and scenarist Ariette Langmann. If the rowing, hysterical family and runaway father seem a trifle overdrawn, Suzanne and her friends, with their teenage anxieties and egotism, their parties, giggling,

assignments, experiments, failings-in love and fallings-out, are engaging just because our view of them seems so private and privileged.

Pialat (who himself plays the role of the father) schools his players in a style of hyper-realism, achieved through extensive use of improvisation. This demands a particular resourcefulness from his actors; here he has found it in abundance in his leading players, though most notably in Sandrine Bonnaire.

The lesson of twentieth-century psychology is that none of us is perfect; and the commercial success of the *Friday the 13th* films indicates that necrophilia is not such a specialized quirk of the psyche as might be supposed. The simple formula for the series is to collect together as many Californian beauties of either sex as seems reasonable; find pretenses to understand them or place them in sexual situations; and at that point commit them to a violent death by axe, bread-knife, ice-pick or defenestration. The dramaturgical formula is none too sophisticated either: the basic rule is that, when they are all dead, the film ends. As a horror film, the most ominous aspect of *Friday the 13th Part IV - The Final Chapter*, directed by Joseph Zito, is the last-scene threat of a further sequel.

Theatre

Classic tactics for family war

The War at Home
Hampstead

James Duff's play appears in London thanks to Alan Schneider, who offered it to Hampstead after failing to place it in America, came over here to direct it, and walked to his death in the Swiss Cottage traffic, a grievous waste of a brilliant director and a good man.

I would like to salute *The War at Home* as worthy of such production circumstances. But it strikes me as no more than an erratically talented variation on a well-worn American theme.

The date is 1973; and from the opening spectacle of two Dallas parents vainly appealing to their combat veteran son to come in and join them round the television set, you can understand American indifference to the piece. New York had its Vietnam homecoming plays 10 years ago with Megan Terry and David Rabe; who needs them now?

However, this theory is then swept aside by other business in the Collier home, and the play begins to develop into a transatlantic counterpart of *Delicatessen* at the Half Moon; another study of asphyxiating family life which has brought forth an alienated monster. The difference is that where the French family specializes in wounding silences, the Colliers go in for compulsive, unstoppable, point-scoring rows.

Father (Timothy West) barricades himself behind crossword puzzles but rises manfully to the conflict whenever his authority is challenged. Daughter Karen (Sylvester Le Touzel) has an impressive flair of misquotation and the manoeuvres of martyred self-righteousness.

But the real artist in domestic strife is the mother - marvelously played by Frances Sternhagen as a pious maternal paragon who controls her territory with a predator's eye and a powerful pair of lungs ("I was not screaming, I was using my loud voice"), and excels in

the classic tactics of aggressive apology, grievance collection, transformation of a victim into an assailant, and other well-tried techniques of putting other people in the wrong where they belong. Played at dictation speed, the dialogue would serve as a useful combat guide to anyone embarking on the minefield of family life.

By this time, alas, Mr Duff has shot his comic bolt and the play returns to Vietnam with a vengeance. Beginning with tears and accusations, the action plummets into melodramatic stereotype with knife-twisting memory speeches and Oedipal gun-brandishing.

Michael Attenborough's production lays its bet on the comic material and allows the final scenes to go over the top. Their mainstay is David Threlfall as the son; beginning as a gently unreachable and readily smiling figure but building into hysterical violence without ever losing control.

Irving Wardle

Turn down a crooked lane

78 Revolutions
Lyric Studio

Surprisingly this and drawn-out for so fastidious a writer, Michael Wilton's new play does show some favourite themes: two men in a delicately observed relationship (a working one, this time) and classical records.

The first 10 minutes, the most off-putting opening on the London fringe at present, are mostly in Russian, and the last 30 largely in Italian as a venerable diva records *bel canto*. In between, two young Americans in 1901 St. Petersburg encounter technical obstacles, artistic temperaments, the Byzantine complications of getting anything done in Russia, and the quasi-marital resentments and mistrusts of collaborators on safari.

If, like me, you find human tantrums and deviousness irritating and boring, that may put you off the play. Philip Voss as a smugly cunning local agent, and Gordon Firth as an ageing artist amazingly reproducing the timbre and style of the early recording period, play crookedness to perfection.

The interest is rather in the quaint difficulties of production: the horn that singers must practically stick their heads in, or how much of Desdemona's *Ave Maria* you can record on a seven-inch wax-covered disc.

There is also interest in the relationship. The curly, eager Neal Swettenham, transposing accompaniments at sight, and the underrated engineer Norman Cooley, play beautifully across a masked social divide.

The emergence of the great Grazianna (Lee Trevorrow) from a forbidding prima donna into a downy old bird sipping brandy with the boys is touching, suggesting that art may sometimes transcend temperaments and horse-trading. But in Dermot Hayes's lovingly elegant setting, it is a play all dressed up with nowhere to go.

Anthony Masters

CAT
Matthew Chapman
STRANGERS KISS.
CATE BLOOMSBURY
O... film you should see:
Pat Stanger
DANIEL TAKES A TRAIN.
© Ronald Ford Coppola's
RUMBLE FISH.

English Bach Festival
Banqueting House, Whitehall

Inigo Jones's perfect double cube provides, acoustically and visually, one of the finest settings for seventeenth and eighteenth century music in London. Lina Laland's English Bach Festival has staged several recreations of baroque dance and diversissement there, and returned on Wednesday night with a new invention, something rich and strange.

Handel's *Alceste* is his one major contribution to the genre. Purcell cultivated with such skill, the semi-opera, which provided self-contained musical

interludes for use within a spoken play. It is not clear why in 1749 Handel accepted the request to provide music for Tobias Smollett's five-act *Alceste*, and it is less clear why the production (which was to have been mounted with lavish sets by the Italian, Servandoni) was cancelled. Handel, on his waste-not-want-not principle, reused much of the music in *The Choice of Hercules*, and the Smollett play has disappeared.

So *Alceste* might seem a curious case for revival in staged form since the work is quite incomplete, not to say unintelligible, as it stands. But cannot be gleaned from the stage directions to fill in some of the missing events, and the English Bach Festival took advantage of this to add a few extra dance and instrumental

English Bach Festival

numbers wherein some essential bits of business could be mined, and the now highly skilled Festival Dancers had a chance to shine.

This had the effect of making the work more of a French-style divertissement than it actually is: if the festival wants to dance Handel, then why not stage *Il pastor fido* or the wonderful *Tristram* prologue? Still, Tom Hawkes's neat, visually pleasing and always serious movements provided an apt context for Belinda Quirey's choreography, which the dancers realized coolly but effectively.

But the glory of the evening was Handel's late, mature music, conducted with vigour by Jean-Claude Malgoire and played by a lively band slightly too small and a little scrawny in some departments. There is an

electrifying grand entrance with obsessively wooching scales, a harmonically rich symphony as Apollo and the Muses descend, and an ethereal "sleep" aria for Calliope which, though rather too heavily sung by Sandra Dugdale, cast a most wonderful spell as the evening sun stretched across the hall.

More stylish among the singers were Vivian Tierney and John Rath (in an insistent, bare aria for Charon). Peter Jeffs had the most elaborately decorative arias and coped admirably. On top of all this rare music, the more familiar strains from *Radamisto*, *Andriana* and *Rodrigo* among the added items made the mixture slightly less strange, but even richer.

Nicholas Kenyon

Television

Open Space (BBC 2) offered a timely introduction to the complexities of the Bill which proposes the censorship of certain "video nasties" - although the programme, *Suitable Viewing in the Home*, suggested that some of those involved believed censorship to be simply and unarguably right. And yet it would have been an advantage to know exactly what is deemed to "deprave and corrupt" rather than witness some *ad hoc* moral outrage which merely renders any debate banal.

Is it not possible, for example, that the violence and

sexuality characteristically employed on television and in film is more insidious, and therefore more harmful, than the explicit violence of certain videocassettes? And might not the "stories" about massacre and murder which fill the television news and the newspapers be just as "corrupting" as any of the more obvious fiction on the video-screen? The answers to these questions may not be easy ones, but those who support censorship by Home Office appointees ought to have cogent and closely reasoned responses.

The growth of the video industry, and the social conse-

quences which cannot yet be measured, are startling enough to alarm many people: in what was perhaps a slip of the tongue, one supporter of the Bill suggested that video machines have replaced "the magician". But such justifiable concern is demeaned when it is replaced by simplistic moral posturing and equally simplistic calls for control.

The debate which followed last night's programme was, as always, inconclusive; but, if the putative censors are anything

like those who spoke in favour of the Bill, the prospect is not a reassuring one. Sex and violence on the screen are almost always distasteful, but what is even more distasteful is the self-righteousness or ignorance of those who wish to impose their own principles and cannot even be bothered to argue their case properly. What we get instead was the cry of "save the children!" to start a populist bandwagon.

Peter Ackroyd

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Best consensus emerging on stock market reform

The great Stock Exchange schism will no doubt be with us for a while yet, but there is a healing process at work. Already something near a consensus is emerging about the pattern of change to the market's trading system demanded by the commitment to end minimum brokers' commissions and the breaking down of the single capacity principle.

The essence and some of the detail of this consensus were first explored in this column last month. They are well set out in the response of the City Capital Markets Committee to the Stock Exchange discussion document, sent to the Council at the end of May but only now published. The Committee, which brings together both stock market firms and users, interested accountants and lawyers, with an unstated dash of guidance from the Bank of England, proved prescient before when it coolly laid out the case for measured but revolutionary change. Its latest analysis thus has a dual authority.

The emerging consensus is that change must be staged, starting with the areas of international trading in large companies, stocks where it is most obviously essential and then spread, on the basis of experiment and experience, to the second and third line stocks that are important equally for domestic trading and the private investor.

There will initially be a two-tier market. For trading in leading shares, the competing market maker system, with dual capacity, will replace the jobber-broker split. The rebel smaller brokers now accept this. As the Capital Markets Committee suggests this will require a full tickertape service recording best bid and offer prices and the volume and price of last transactions. The experience of NASDAQ, the US over-the-counter network, has convinced the Stock Exchange Council that this need not queer the market maker's pitch because it encourages heavier trading.

Meanwhile, the market for second and third line stocks can maintain 9 more or less formal split between jobber dealers and broker agents, since the initial pressure on commissions will be less. The experience in the top shares will then determine whether the market-maker system should extend to more shares along with the tickertape required to ensure clients they are dealing at true market prices, as is now happening on NASDAQ.

There will also be experiments with electronic matching of buy and sell orders on the model of Ariel to see how markets may be maintained in smaller stocks as the more cost-conscious competitive system spreads down the line. The second tier may eventually evolve into an American-style electronic over-the-counter market.

Such a development would still leave problems for some brokers, particularly medium-sized firms with institutional business, but it would allow the market to become more competitive with minimum disruption and at the same pace as the spread of new means of investor protection.

More light needed on Inmos

The Government's decision last week to turn down the plan by a group of City institutions to put £30m of new capital into Inmos, the controversial state-funded microchip manufacturer, has not yet been fully explained. The clear impression given by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Government minister for high technology and all things futuristic, was that the idea had

been turned down because it undervalued what the company was worth.

The deal, put together by Hill Samuel, would have involved the institutions taking just under 30 per cent of the equity, putting a price tag of over £100m on the whole business which is now at last making money in a modest way after six years and £105m of Government equity and loans. This compares with the £200m that the optimists at Inmos and the DTI think the company could be really worth.

If undervaluation was one factor, there appears to be another. One of the conditions which the institutions attached to their willingness to put up new money was that the existing management should be beefed up. The great and the good in the City were not too impressed with the overall strength at the top of the company despite the undoubted brilliance of Mr Ian Barron, the one remaining founder boffin still working full-time for the company. If they were going to be asked to stump up new chunks of money at regular intervals, the institutions clearly felt they would want to be sure the company was under a tight rein.

Happy discoveries on money supply figures

Serendipity is the faculty for making happy discoveries by accident. Horace Walpole who coined the word 200 years ago, would have understood the latest set of detailed money supply figures.

A week ago, just as the London summit clanked into inaction, the gilt market was beaten into submission by outline money supply figures for the May banking month. Against market fears of an expansionary figure of perhaps 2 per cent of £M3, the Bank of England announced a preliminary figure of just 7/4 per cent. Market fears that interest rates were set to rise were still.

Almost as you might have expected yesterday's explicit version of the original outline data suggested at least to the suspicious-minded, that the tiny rise in £M3 owed a lot to a series of happy accidents.

For example, the underlying demand for bank credit (bank lending to the private sector) seasonally adjusted, was fairly constant last month, at about £1.5 billion. At the level where it is included in the £M3 calculations, the figure is set off against the Bank of England's holdings of commercial bills. In the early months of the year, the bill mountain rose to accommodate corporate tax payments. Last month the bill mountain began to subside. In the process, a £1.5 billion bank lending figure was transformed into a total private sector contribution to domestic credit expansion of £0.6 billion.

The bank can argue that such a happy conjunction of events is no more than a true reflection of credit demand in the economy. As a view, this has a certain validity, if only because the anticipated rise in base rates has so far failed to materialize.

But other aspects of the detailed £M3 data also invite some scepticism. Gilt traders pointed to the net repayment of debt by local authorities and nationalized industries.

After opening firmly girls swung round yesterday after publication of the detailed banking May data, leaving the ultra-longes unchanged, and shorts just a quarter better. The slight steepening of the yield curve, and the implicit flight into quality, casts a further cloud over the funding programme. Good May PSBR figures next Monday would help sentiment no end.

Public spending gap

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The revised and summer supplementary estimates for 1984-85 presented to the Commons yesterday show that the Government has so far used up only £226m out of its £2,750m public spending reserve for this financial year.

However, the estimates do not provide for the extra cost of the nurses' pay settlement, which will account for about another £232m, or for overspending by local authorities.

The system of estimates prepared for Parliament still does not square with the planning figures for public expenditure, which makes them unhelpful to students of public spending in or out of the Commons. The supplementary estimates show an increase of £710m, largely offset by a reduction of £573m in revised estimates, a shift which partly reflects the abolition of the National Insurance surcharge.

But only £619m of the increase counts as public expenditure, of which all but £226m is absorbed into existing programmes, after allowing for the National Insurance change.

One company took an order for a container crane with a bid that was 20 per cent cheaper than the Japanese bid. Mr James Smith Laitan, Hongkong's trade commissioner, said: "It is normally the other way around."

What makes that even more impressive is the fact that the British technology was also much better and the delivery date promised was considerably earlier. In the other deals, the British have beaten the Japanese

Jaguar set for record profit after £18m first quarter

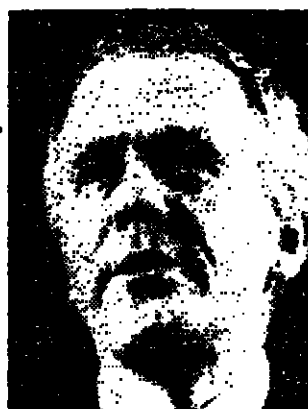
By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Workers at Jaguar Cars will qualify for free shares worth up to £450 each when the luxury car maker - now on course for another record year of profits - is floated on the Stock Exchange, in the next few weeks.

The generous employee share scheme was disclosed yesterday as BL announced details of the impending Jaguar flotation, the first important step in the Government's long-term plan for returning as much of BL as possible to the private sector.

The announcement was coupled with the publication of Jaguar's profits in the first quarter of this year. With sales in the United States still buoyant the company made a pretax profit of £18m, leaving it well placed to beat last year's full-year figure of £5.9m, itself the best in Jaguar's history.

The company's pretax profit in 1982 was just £7.7m, and in



Egon: sales up 13 per cent

known, however, to be the second half of next month.

City estimates are that the issue should raise at least £250m.

A total of £3.5m is being put aside from Jaguar's profits to finance the initial free share

the previous two years, according to figures disclosed yesterday, it made losses totalling £79m, underlining the radical turnaround in the company's fortunes that has made a stock market flotation feasible.

Yesterday's statement confirms that the entire share capital of Jaguar will be offered to investors, despite the unsuccessful campaign by the BL board to retain a 25 per cent minority interest after privatization.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, initially supported BL's plan, but was overruled in Cabinet.

A firm date for the flotation has still not been agreed, and the proposals will have to be put to a special meeting of the 67,000 surviving minority shareholders in BL before it can take place. The target date is

offer to Jaguar's 9,350 employees. Of these, 8,000 will qualify for £450 worth of shares, and the remainder - new employees - will qualify for £105 worth of shares. Jaguar also intends to introduce a share option scheme for senior executives.

The small group of private shareholders in BL will be given preferential application and allotment rights in the flotation, but will not qualify for any free or cut-price Jaguar shares.

Commenting on the first-quarter profit figures, Mr John Egon, Jaguar's managing director, said that sales were running 13 per cent higher so far this year.

Jaguar's annual production of cars has increased from 13,000 to 32,000 in three years, and it is still not meeting demand.

Jaguar's 1983 report and accounts show that its £55.9m pretax profit last year was made on sales of £476m.

Maxwell 'to reduce role at BPCC'

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Maxwell is to stand down as chief executive of British Printing Communication Corporation. He told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that he wanted more time to consider other things and added later that the group had been looking for a managing director for three months.

Mr Maxwell, who will remain chairman, is widely tipped as a possible buyer of either Fleet Holdings, publishers of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star, or for Mirror Group Newspapers, which owns the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sporting Life, Sunday People and the Sunday Mail and Daily Record in Scotland.

Reed International, owners of Mirror Group, has denied it intends anything other than a stock market flotation for M G N. Fleet has not commented on speculation that Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, may sell his stake or bid for the group. Mr Maxwell said yesterday he was still weighing both situations - "carefully" - but would not say whether talks had taken place with either newspaper group owners.

For three years Mr Maxwell has concentrated on turning BPCC from a £12m loss to a £22m profit in 1984. Yesterday he forecast that profits for the year to January 1985 would be substantially higher and the dividend would be lifted 50 per cent to 9p with 3p paid on "excellent" interim results in July and 6p on the final figures.

Yesterday afternoon BPCC was said to be liquidating half of a £52m investment trust for which it bid in shares. The proceeds will clear debts and with Pergamon, will give Mr Maxwell the facility to raise several hundred million pounds.

EEC first for oil flotation

The first prospectus prepared according to European Commission directives will be unveiled next week for Enterprise Oil, is brought to market. However, earlier fears that the prospectus would be rendered unintelligible by the European legislation have now faded.

A series of intensive negotiations between the Stock Exchange, the Government, merchant bankers and the company have unravelled most of the technical complexities.

The new-style prospectus will set the standards for British Telecom and Jaguar privatization prospectuses later this year and for private listings which must comply with the new regulations from January 1.

Mr John MacArthur of Kleinwort Benson, the lead bank for the flotation, said: "We have really been the pioneers in this but a lot of groundwork has now been done which will save time and effort for others."

Mercantile House merger in danger

By William Kay, City Editor

For the second time in a fortnight one of the City's potentially epoch-making series of mergers is in danger of foundering.

The recent collapse in the share price of Mercantile House has led to a renegotiation of its proposed takeover of the discount house Jessel, Toynbee and Gillett. Mr John Reeve, finance director of Mercantile House, said yesterday: "We have not yet decided to improve the terms, so it is possible that we might drop the deal."

On June 1, Hambro Life Assurance and Charterhouse J. Rothschild announced they had abandoned their planned merger.

Since the Mercantile-Jessel deal was unveiled on May 14, Mercantile's shares have fallen from 368p to 252p. This has cut the value of the three-for-10 share exchange from 110p per Jessel share to 75p. Jessel shares closed last night at 86p.

The first closing date for the offer is Monday, when the Jessel board is due to meet. Unless there are better terms, the directors are under strong pressure from shareholders to withdraw their recommendation to accept.

Mr Michael Toynbee, chairman of Jessel, Toynbee and Gillett, said yesterday: "Obviously something will have to be done fairly quickly. I am in the middle of discussions with Mr Barkshire, the chairman of Mercantile House, so I would not like to say any more at this stage."

Mr Reeve stressed that Mercantile House had as yet taken no decision. He agreed the share fall had "created a situation that suggests a possible re-examination of the terms", but added this in no way affected plans to take a 29.9 per cent stake in the stockbroker-firm Laing and Cruickshank, involving a mixture of cash and equity options.

Mercantile has already had to adjust the Jessel terms once. Between the initial announcement and the publication of the formal offer document 10 days later, Mercantile shares had fallen 53p to 315p, valuing Jessel shares at 94p on the three-for-10 basis. So a sweetener was added - an option to take half the offer in loan notes. But that alternative lapsed on Monday.

Mr Toynbee made no secret of his original reluctance to the bid,

CJR and Hambro plan link

By Jonathan Clare

Hambro Life Assurance is exploring the possibility of using its salesmen to introduce the financial services offered by Charterhouse J. Rothschild to its clients.

Mr Sydney Lipworth, Hambro Life's deputy chairman, this was one way of establishing closer links between the two companies in the wake of the failure to consummate a full-blown merger.

Mr Mark Weinberg, Hambro Life's chairman said yesterday that Mr Jacob Rothschild and Viscount Weir of CJR would strengthen the Hambro Life board.

He told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting: "In addition to their contribution as members of our board they and other directors of CJR have indicated that they will be active in introducing us to potential sources of business."

He added that Hambro Life would benefit from the coordination of CJR's investment management with its own. He also told about 25 shareholders - who asked no questions - that the sale by Hambros Bank Group of its 24.9 per cent stake in Hambro Life to CJR was not unfavourable for the company despite the abandoning of the merger plans.

Shares fall 18.3 points

Shares dropped sharply yesterday as US economists predicted a 10 per cent inflation rate in the US.

The FT 30 share index closed at its lowest of the day, down 18.3 points at 816.2. The wider measurement index, the FT-SE 100, was off by 20.9 points to 1043.8.

Leading the market down were banks, 2.5 per cent lower, chemicals on Beecham's disappointing results, motors and oils.

Government stocks, however, shrugged off the gloom and the FT government securities index ended the day a shade higher at 78.83.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1043.8 down 20.9
FT Index: 816.2 down 18.3
FT Gilt: 78.83 up 0.15
FT All Share: N/A
Bargains: 17,985
Distressed: 1,985
New York: Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1099.93 down 10.60
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 1,148.73 down 127.20
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 553.15 down 8.07

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.3860 up 5pts
Index 79.5 unchanged
DM 3.7725 up 0.0050
FF 11.5925 up 0.0125
Yen 321.00 down 1.25
Index 131.1 down 0.1
DM 2.7195 up 0.0035
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3855
Dollar DM 2.7215

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9.9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8-6
3 month interbank 9% - 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11% - 11%
3 month DM 5 5/16 - 5 5/16
3 month FF 13 1/4 - 12%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.50
Fed funds 11
Treasury long bond 9 9/16 - 9 9/16
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period May 2 to June 5, 1983 inclusive: 9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
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New York (latest): \$375.75
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NEWS IN BRIEF

NEI poised to win £100m order

Britain is likely to win an order worth more than £100m to supply the turbine equipment for a power station being built in Iraq by the Korean engineering group Hyundai.

The four 300MW generating turbines are likely to be built by NEI Parsons on Tyne-side, although no official contract has yet been placed.

● **ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS**, the world's biggest producer, has increased its profits across the board to turn in £22.4m, against £17.3m for the first half. Turnover rose from £213m to £265m. The interim dividend has been increased from 3.25p to 3.6p.

● **The British & Commonwealth Shipping Company** has increased pretax profits for the year to December 31 1983 to £58.5m from £36.8m. Turnover increased from £349.6m to £350.3m. The final dividend of 9.5p makes 17.5p for the year, against 15.5p last time. *Temper, page 17*

● **Beecham** is to pay a final dividend of 5.6p, making 10.2p (9.1p) for the year to March 31, 1984, after announcing a rise in pretax profits to £268m (£237m). Sales totalled £1.9 billion (£1.7 billion).

● **Syndicate number 553** at Lloyd's which has 500 members, including Mr Mark Cox and Miss Virginia Wade, the tennis stars, has exceeded the underwriting limits set by the Lloyd's authorities.

British undercut rivals for Hongkong contracts

Closing in on the Japanese

From John Lawless, Hongkong

The British are at last starting to beat the Japanese on price when bidding for export contracts.

British government trade specialists in Hongkong are able to cite three recent deals when after fierce tussles - contracts were won with bids that were significantly cheaper than those of Japanese competitors.

One company took an order for a container crane with a bid that was 20 per cent cheaper than the Japanese bid.

Mr James Smith Laitan, Hongkong's trade commissioner, said: "It is normally the other way around."

What makes that even more impressive is the fact that the British technology was also much better and the delivery date promised was considerably earlier. In the other deals, the British have beaten the Japanese

to a £7m lift contract for a new office block, and to the supply of £4m worth of hydraulic platforms for a new ferry terminal.

Japanese companies, having secured a large slice of the Hongkong import market, as the second supplier of goods after China, are almost certainly trying to increase their profits per contract. Several Western competitors believe that, in a significant number of cases and in many more markets, the Japanese have been "buying" market share with below-cost quotes.

Japan last year sold HK\$40.3 billion (£3.7 billion) worth of goods to Hongkong, compared with sixth-placed Britain's HK\$37.5 billion.

But Mr Smith Laitan added: "We have just generally got our unit price down in Britain."

The competitiveness of sterling against the US dollar, to which the Hongkong dollar is tied, has been important. It suggests that Britain could also now be extremely well-placed in the US, its major market for manufactured goods, against the Japanese.

It is, however, even more significant that the orders were won in Hongkong. With its traditional ability to be "last in and first out" of recession, Hongkong is ahead in the upswing of world trade. First quarter exports this year were 51 per cent up on the same three months of last year.

"Although it has a population of only 5.5 million, Hongkong is the world's 13th largest trading economy," said Mr Len Dunning, executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Faldo's faith in his short game sees him make some remarkable recoveries

From Mitchell Phillips, Manchester, New York

Nick Faldo put together a satisfactory 71 in the first round of the 1984 Open, which started on the West Coast at Winged Foot. Faldo, making his debut in the championship, had dropped shots at each of the first two holes, so he did well to give himself a sound foundation. Lennie Clements and David Camp were the early leaders after rounds of 69. Peter Oosterhuis took 73, while Calvin Peete, the American Ryder Cup player, was taken to hospital for tests after collapsing at the third hole.

Faldo made his life difficult with a shaky start. The first two holes, which he had to play with a club, established the pattern of play required at Winged Foot. The first dog legs to the left, the second swings more sharply to the right. So the examination begins with shots of varying size needed to be shaped in a cleft-handled manner, created by the twisting trees which line each fairway.

Faldo varied the tries at both the first and the second. At the first he was required to come out sideways so that a backswing was needed for his third shot. Dropping a shot at each of those holes is hardly the way to start on a course which has no secret. Faldo's more disconcerting was that, alongside his playing partner, Gil Morgan, he had those first two, and Jack Renner, completing the group, birdied the second.

Faldo: remarkable stuff

Piggott poised for York treble

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Lester Piggott has good chance of winning three more races a York today on Indian Flower (2.35); Wilki Wilki (3.45); and Borodino (4.45). The significant thing about the San Juan de Capistrano handicapper is that Wilki Wilki will be wearing blinkers for the first time this season. He wore them last season when he won the Queen Elizabeth Silver Trophy over today's course and distance in August and again at Newmarket in the Autumn when he won two more tough handicaps over seven furlongs.

But he has not worn them in either of his races this season and it was clear watching him finish third in the Victoria Cup at Ascot and fourth at Ayr that he needs them to give him that extra sharpness.

Blinkers had the desired effect on Swinging Rebel at Brighton in May but he made no show in a similar race at Epsom on Derby Day and I much prefer Wilki Wilki. El Mansour, who finished fourth in the Victoria Cup, only a head behind Wilki Wilki, has been allowed a pound by the handicapper but my selection was not wearing blinkers that day and now I am banking on them doing the trick.



Gavin Hunter's Stats Anna, who goes to post for today's top sprint (4.0) at Sandown.

Portuguese panache perplexes holders

From David Miller, Strasbourg

West Germany 0 Portugal 0

Portugal, with a makeshift, bureaucratic manager who rescued them in the qualifying competition, held out against all odds to draw Portugal 0-0. The Portuguese, who had to admit that a lot of the time, Briegle's style, better collectively supported, looked the more likely to achieve conventional success.

Coldstream makes them gasp

By Jenny MacArthur

Derek Rickitts, riding Rodney Ward's 18-year-old horse, Coldstream, gave the crowd at yesterday's Royal International Horse show at Birmingham a dazzling display of jumping when he won the Crown Life Assurance Stakes.

chip and drift and curl. It was fascinating to see on the same pitch and in the same place what is said to be the best of the world's top players had to admit that a lot of the time, Briegle's style, better collectively supported, looked the more likely to achieve conventional success.

Nick Skelton on St James was the early leader in the class but their time was quickly overtaken by David Broome on Rodney Ward's 18-year-old horse, Coldstream, who won the Crown Life Assurance Stakes.

From David Miller

yellow on the terraces from over the border must have feared the worst. But the four Anderlecht men in midfield, Vandenbergh, Vercauteren, Clemaens, and computerized lines, with Vercauteren's penetrating Yugo's left flank.

THE CROWN LIFE ASSURANCE STAKES (2-y-o colts; £2,000) 1. Coldstream (D. Rickitts) 2. St James (N. Skelton) 3. St James (N. Skelton) 4. St James (N. Skelton) 5. St James (N. Skelton) 6. St James (N. Skelton) 7. St James (N. Skelton) 8. St James (N. Skelton) 9. St James (N. Skelton) 10. St James (N. Skelton) 11. St James (N. Skelton) 12. St James (N. Skelton) 13. St James (N. Skelton) 14. St James (N. Skelton) 15. St James (N. Skelton) 16. St James (N. Skelton) 17. St James (N. Skelton) 18. St James (N. Skelton) 19. St James (N. Skelton) 20. St James (N. Skelton) 21. St James (N. Skelton) 22. St James (N. Skelton) 23. St James (N. Skelton) 24. St James (N. Skelton) 25. St James (N. Skelton) 26. St James (N. Skelton) 27. St James (N. Skelton) 28. St James (N. Skelton) 29. St James (N. Skelton) 30. St James (N. Skelton) 31. St James (N. Skelton) 32. St James (N. Skelton) 33. St James (N. Skelton) 34. St James (N. Skelton) 35. St James (N. Skelton) 36. St James (N. Skelton) 37. 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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

New Honda Civic stands out from the pack

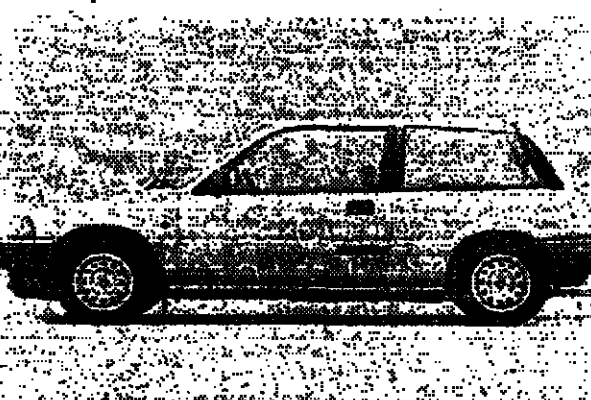
Important improvements in technology, performance, comfort and interior space across the whole range of small and medium cars have made it increasingly difficult to identify one which stands out from its contemporaries.

Such a car in my view, is the latest version of the Honda Civic. It is a pleasure to drive from every aspect, and the highlight of my motoring year.

For someone fortunate enough to drive some of the world's most exotic "exotics", it is surprising that I should put this £4,840 super-mini above cars costing 10 times as much, with seating acceleration and maximum speeds in excess of 150 mph.

In fact they have their shortcomings. Some are as nervous to handle as thoroughbred racehorses. Others are cramped and noisy and have gearboxes which defy all attempts to make changes neatly and quietly.

Of course, there is the outstanding ride and luxurious comfort of a Jaguar, or more expensive versions of the Mercedes, and of course I would prefer one of these to the Civic if my budget stretched that far. But even they have not left such a lasting impression of excellence in their class as the Honda.



Honda Civic: A pleasure to drive from every aspect

compact, and extremely light thanks to its aluminium block. Yet it revs so freely and smoothly that when other engines are gasping for breath, the Civic is just getting into its stride. Drivers of a new "British" car out next week will be finding this for themselves. It uses the same engine and gearbox.

The one controversial feature about the Civic is its rear styling. The use of a very long roof to combine compact size with maximum interior space and excellent aerodynamics means that the big glass tailgate is nearly vertical.

Some people are put off by the resulting slab-sided look. I like it, and with the bottom six inches of the glass painted black, it makes the Civic stand out in a crowd of other hatchbacks.

At 12ft 6in overall it is about 6in shorter than the VW Golf and Ford Escort, and 9in shorter than the Austin Maestro. But as these all claim to be at least one class above the super-mini sector, the Civic appears to fall between the two.

I only wish it were British, and draw what consolation there is to be had from the fact that Honda is the manufacturer Austin Rover has chosen as its partner for next generation Rover models.

At one time, manufacturers introduced special campaign models only when demand for a particular model had gone flat or they wanted to counter a similar move by a competitor.

Of course, they never called them campaign models in public. That

rather gave the game away. They preferred the more inviting "special edition", or even more attractive "limited edition". The latter was always accompanied by a warning that only a few hundred would be built, implying that the motorist who delayed would be too late.

Now a new boost has been given to the "special" by the bitterly contested cut-price war being waged by all car makers - some more openly than others. Manufacturers see the "special" as a way of cutting prices officially.

Cars like Ford's Sierra and Capri Lasers and Nissan's Jubilee contain hundreds of pounds worth of extra fittings and still have a recommended retail price below that of the model they are based on.

In this way, it is hoped that you, the punter, will be so delighted with your bargain that you will forget to demand the substantial discount which is now becoming standard practice in British car showrooms.

General Motors is the latest into the field. It has just announced that two versions of its Spanish-made small car, the Opel Corsa on the Continent and the Vauxhall Nova here, will be "specialized" and carry the designation "Swing". They will be distinguished by a red stripe on bumpers and side mouldings, sports wheels, and the inevitable insignia on both doors.

Equipped with such extras as front door pockets, centre console, sports steering wheel, quartz clock, and trip-odometer, the one litre Nova Swing will sell for £4,098 and the 1.2 litre for £4,235. That is some £200 less than the standard models.

Oh, I almost forgot. Vauxhall says that only 9,000 will be made.

Saab Cabriolet

Saab is becoming very buoyant these days. Last month, it showed the world's press its first up-market car, the Saab 900 Turbo 16, and announced plans to increase production by 15 per cent, at a time when most of its competitors are worried about the unused capacity eating its head off in their factories.

Now Saab is going one further, with the news this week that the very attractive design-study Cabriolet shown at last year's Frankfurt motor show is going into production.

Based on the 900 Turbo, it will be the Swedish company's first soft-top. It will also be a very international affair. Bodies, engines, and other components will be shipped to the assembly plant Saab operates jointly with Valmet, another Swedish engineering group, in Finland. They will be joined there by electrically operated hoods imported from the US, which is expected to take the lion's share of the new car.

An interesting feature of the model shown at Frankfurt was the glass rear window, which retracts electrically into a protective housing in the boot. It appears to offer a very neat alternative to plastic rear windows which soon become scratched and hazy.

The market for convertibles is on the increase again, after years of falling sales because of American doubts about their safety in roll-over crashes. Saab estimates that US convertible sales alone amount to 100,000 a year with another 50,000 being bought by European motorists.

Rolls-Royce and Bentley Authorised Dealers

JACK BARCLAY LIMITED

SILVER SPIRIT
1982 (Apr) Claret with beige leather, 16,000 miles. One of 8 available.
£29,500

SILVER WRAITH II
1980 (Sept) Pewter with a Green Everflex roof and Green leather.
12,000 miles. One of 2 available.
£24,000

SILVER SHADOW II
1980 (Sept) Pewter over Moorland with beige leather, 4,000 miles. One of 11 available.
£21,500

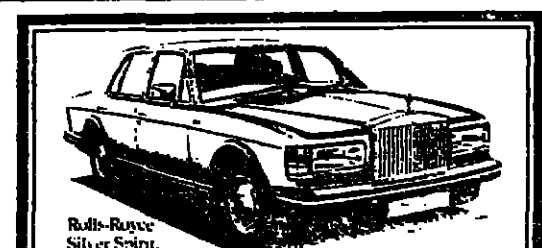
CORNICHE SALOON
1979 (Aug) Willow Gold with beige leather, 15,000 miles. One of 2 available.
£28,500

CORNICHE CONVERTIBLE
1981 (Jan) Champagne with Champagne leather, 12,000 miles.
£22,500

MULSANT TURBO
1983 (Mar) Dark Oyster with Red leather, 15,000 miles.
£32,500

MULSANT
1982 (Sept) Ocean Blue over Deep Ocean with Dark Blue leather, 20,000 miles. One of 3 available.
£29,500

Try Jack Barclay first
01-629 7444



Why your next new car could be a used Rolls-Royce

Most used car schemes protect you against the big problems. The Rolls-Royce Warranted Scheme is no exception.

But, since the Rolls-Royce motor car - even a used one - hardly conforms to the rules of everyday motoring, nor does the cover which Warranted offers.

Quite simply, it ensures, apart from anything else, that the car lighter will fight the door lock will lock and the tape player will play. Even after six or more years.

No other used car offers that kind of reassurance of quality, durability and reliability. But then, no other used car has the same start in life as a Rolls-Royce.

Warranted Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars are available from Officially Approved Distributors. For further information please telephone Stephen Timperley at Rolls-Royce Motors, 01-629 4412.

DAVID FORBES, Kent, Official Distributor for Rolls-Royce and Bentley. 1979 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, 1980 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1981 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1982 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1983 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1984 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1985 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1986 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1987 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1988 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1989 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1990 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1991 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1992 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1993 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1994 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1995 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1996 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1997 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1998 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 1999 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 2000 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 2001 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 2002 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 2003 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, 2004 V12 Rolls-Royce Silver 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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries: Peter Dear and Peter Davale

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Celestial AM**
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Fern Britton. News from Debbie Rix at 6.50, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 8.55; review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; gardening advice between 7.30 and 7.45; pop music news between 7.45 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.30; cookery hints between 8.30 and 8.50.
- 9.00 **MacLeod's Russia**. On the fourth journey Donny MacLeod reaches Irkutsk and talks to the descendants of those who were sent to work in the infamous salt mines (P). 9.20 **Celestial**. 10.30 **School**, presented by Jane Hardy (P).
- 10.55 **Cricket: First Test**. Peter West introduces coverage of the second day's play at Edgbaston in the match between England and the West Indies. There is further coverage on this channel at 1.40 and on BBC 2 at 2.50 with highlights at 11.10.
- 1.05 **Afternoon News** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Goodall. The weather prospects come from Ian McCaskill. 1.22 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.25 **Heads and Tails**. A See-Saw programme for the very young (P).
- 1.40 **Cricket: First Test**. Further coverage of the second day's play. 3.53 **Regional News** (not London).
- 3.55 **Play School**, presented by Ben Thomas. 4.20 **Agony Aunt**. Adrian Harvey presents the last in the series of word games. 4.35 **Babar in America**, narrated by Peter Ustinov (P).
- 5.00 **Newsround**. Edna Paul McDowell considers the role of women in today's athletics, reports from Greece and Greece.
- 5.10 **Children of Fire Mountain**. Drama series set in New Zealand at the turn of the century (P).
- 5.40 **Shy Mouse**.
- 5.40 **The Pink Panther Show**. Three cartoons (P).
- 7.00 **Cartoon**. The student's hang-out. Cartoon's coffee house, is the focus of blackmail as the crook that holds the place down unless his prodigy is whored in the school.
- 7.50 **Old One Out**. Quiz show, presented by Paul Daniels.
- 8.20 **The Time of Your Life**. Scott Edwards creates a moment in the late 1950s when tonight's mystery guest made his first television appearance on a record-breaking BBC television programme.
- 8.50 **News with Sue Lawley**.
- 9.25 **The Royal International Horse Show**. Introduced by David Vine at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Raymond Jackson, Vernon and Stephen Hilday are the commentators for the Midland Park. 10.30 **The London Programme**. Gavin Weightman with a report on the plight of London's mentally ill who have been released from hospital for "examination" in hostels, bed and breakfast hotels and bed-sitters.
- 11.00 **News** headlines and weather.
- 11.15 **Film: Stagehands**. Five (1972) starring Michael Sacks and Roy Laidlaw. Subtitle: "The story of the men who work on the stage".
- 11.30 **News** headlines and weather.
- 11.45 **Film: Stagehands**. Five (1972) starring Michael Sacks and Roy Laidlaw. Subtitle: "The story of the men who work on the stage".

tv-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.35 and 7.35; consumer news at 8.40 and 8.45; singing at 8.45; exercises at 8.50, 8.55, 8.57 and 8.59; the day's anniversaries at 8.55 and 8.59; Pope's cartoon at 7.25; James Suckling at 7.40 and 8.15; pop video at 7.55; holiday health at 8.25; television highlights at 8.34.
- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools: Film and feature**, that survive on film. 9.50 **History in old hospitals**. 10.05 **A child's responsibilities at a Summer Camp**. 10.20 **Language used for sympathy and hostility**. 10.40 **California**. 11.05 **Grant's diaries**. 11.22 **Cartoon version of Mary Moore**. A James Thurber tale. 11.40 **The Reproductive system**. 11.55 **Watson's**. 12.00 **AMR**. 12.05 **Animated adventures of a little rascal**. 12.10 **Rainbow**. Learning with puppets. 12.30 **Watson's**. 12.35 **Cartoon**. 12.40 **Cartoon**. 12.45 **Cartoon**. 12.50 **Cartoon**. 12.55 **Cartoon**. 1.00 **News**. 1.20 **Thames news**. 1.30 **Afternoon News**. On Les Caspary, a drop of rock, a drop of water. 1.40 **Cartoon**. 1.45 **Cartoon**. 1.50 **Cartoon**. 1.55 **Cartoon**. 2.00 **Cartoon**. 2.05 **Cartoon**. 2.10 **Cartoon**. 2.15 **Cartoon**. 2.20 **Cartoon**. 2.25 **Cartoon**. 2.30 **Cartoon**. 2.35 **Cartoon**. 2.40 **Cartoon**. 2.45 **Cartoon**. 2.50 **Cartoon**. 2.55 **Cartoon**. 3.00 **Cartoon**. 3.05 **Cartoon**. 3.10 **Cartoon**. 3.15 **Cartoon**. 3.20 **Cartoon**. 3.25 **Cartoon**. 3.30 **Cartoon**. 3.35 **Cartoon**. 3.40 **Cartoon**. 3.45 **Cartoon**. 3.50 **Cartoon**. 3.55 **Cartoon**. 4.00 **Cartoon**. 4.05 **Cartoon**. 4.10 **Cartoon**. 4.15 **Cartoon**. 4.20 **Cartoon**. 4.25 **Cartoon**. 4.30 **Cartoon**. 4.35 **Cartoon**. 4.40 **Cartoon**. 4.45 **Cartoon**. 4.50 **Cartoon**. 4.55 **Cartoon**. 5.00 **Cartoon**. 5.05 **Cartoon**. 5.10 **Cartoon**. 5.15 **Cartoon**. 5.20 **Cartoon**. 5.25 **Cartoon**. 5.30 **Cartoon**. 5.35 **Cartoon**. 5.40 **Cartoon**. 5.45 **Cartoon**. 5.50 **Cartoon**. 5.55 **Cartoon**. 6.00 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It's hat time again - a pre-Ascot hat show in a Covent Garden, London, restaurant included these unusual designs from collections by David Shilling, Robert Cooke and Nicole Marks.

Longbridge strike collapses

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

Austin Rover executives were working late last night to prepare for the resumption of full production at their Longbridge and Cowley car manufacturing plants which have been at a standstill for the past fortnight, with more than 18,000 workers laid off.

The move came after the collapse yesterday of a strike by 300 transport drivers demanding the reinstatement of a colleague dismissed for striking a foreman.

Faced by management determination that the man would not be reemployed, the drivers voted to return to work on Monday.

The dispute cost production of more than 20,000 cars worth about £100m at showroom prices, and threatened the launch of the new Rover 200 small car being made at Longbridge.

Last night the company said the launch would go ahead on Tuesday as planned.

Motoring, page 23

Union to boycott NCB ballot

Continued from page 1

But the present dispute was called on an area-by-area basis and the miners' president has ruled out of order repeated calls from moderate coalfield leaders that there should be a national ballot.

The miners' executive has also made official the strike by pitmen in Lancashire, where four-fifths of the men are out, despite a ballot in the coalfield which went convincingly in favour of remaining at work.

The union is taking further

steps to isolate the steel industry from its coke and coal supplies, arguing that it is up to the main steel union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, to approach the NUM for a national agreement on the supply of just enough fuel to keep the industry ticking over but not producing any steel.

There are no signs yet of such an approach, but the decision puts at risk the steelworks at Ravenscraig in Scotland and Llanwern in South Wales.

There was increasing acri-

mony between the coal board and the union yesterday after the breakdown of Wednesday's talks at a Rotherham hotel. Each side blamed the other for the failure, and hurled charges of belligerence and intransigence.

Mr MacGregor accused the union of exploiting its members for political purposes and Mr Scargill counter-charged that the board's chairman was a puppet of a "paranoiac" Mrs Thatcher who was pulling the strings to smash the union.

Hose ban spreads as drought worsens

By Kenneth Gosling

Millions of people face a ban on the use of hoses as parts of the country face their worst drought for years.

Rainfall has been so poor in Wales that yesterday the Welsh Water Authority reported the driest spring since 1938. In the West Country, where conditions are the worst for 10 years, there was a further warning of increased demand as the population doubles with the arrival of the holiday season.

In the southern half of the country there is little prospect of rain until next Tuesday. The South West Water Authority has applied for drought orders to enable more water to be drawn from local rivers.

There was a small amount of rain in the West a fortnight ago, which topped up some rivers, but there has been little since.

Mr Len Hill, the authority chairman, said there would be a total ban on hosepipe use from June 22. "Our local rivers and reservoirs are at their lowest levels for years and the long-term weather forecast is not encouraging," he said.

April over England and Wales was the driest since 1957 and the fourth driest this century.

How Sikhs' holy shrine became a 'killing ground'

Michael Hamlyn, South Asia correspondent of The Times, was the first British newspaperman to visit Amritsar since the invasion of the Golden Temple.

Outside the main entrance of the Golden Temple of Amritsar is in normal times a busy market. Today, it is shattered. No pilgrims through the forecourt. A barbed wire entanglement blocks the gate. A knot of soldiers stand with their weapons cradled in their arms.

The white plaster facade of the three-storey high building is pockmarked where bullets have punched away the outer skin revealing the blood-red brick beneath. Between the ribbed domes of the minarets, rough brick gun emplacements, built during the past few months, are pitted and scarred. A cascade of rubble shows where a higher calibre shot struck home.

Away to the left are twin towers, said to have been built by the greatest Sikh ruler, Maharajah Ranjit Singh. Now they are topless. The gun emplacements that the Sikh militants defending the temple built on them to command views into and around the shrine, were blown away.

"We took the top off the towers and off the water tower nearby before we started," Major-General Kuldeep Singh Brar, the divisional commander in charge of the assault on the Sikhs' holiest shrine, said.

He is himself a clean-shaven Sikh. The general, the Corps Commander, and the General Officer Commanding Western Command, Lieutenant-General Sundarji, were all taken by surprise by the ferocity of the defence of the temple.

"If you ask if there was a failure of intelligence," General Sundarji said, "the answer is yes."

To stand before the Akal Takht, the immortal throne of Sikh authority both spiritual and temporal, is to get an impression of the extent of that failure.

On the marble pavement in a small open square surrounded on four sides by sandbagged or bricked gun emplacements, 57 Indian soldiers including 10 commandos, died. This is the spot the soldiers call "the killing ground."

The facade of the Akal Takht is ruined. The octagonal pillars supporting the open verandahs are fallen. The whole of the left side has crumbled into rubble. Of the

bise and white mosaic above the windows only a fragment is left. The golden frieze above the second floor has all but gone. The onion-shaped dome looks like a peeled orange with two or three segments removed.

Inside was the Sikh extremists' stronghold. To protect the three-storey building they had 30 light machine guns. The charred second-floor room, near where Sant Jarnail Bhindranwale gave his final interviews to the press, was ankle-deep in spent cartridges.

Miraculously, however, the holiest room in Akal Takht, the Kotha Sahib, where the Sikhs' bible, *Guru Granth Sahib*, is brought to rest each night, is virtually untouched. A few light fittings hang loose, and a mirror is cracked but that is all.

The generals explaining the assault retrace time and again that the troops had taken heavy casualties because of the voluntary restriction on firing even in the direction of the temple's holiest of holies, the Harmandir Sahib.

Inside this sanctum the *gurmukhi*, the priests of the temple, have begun again the recitation of prayers sung to historical *rajps* and broadcast through loudspeakers. The temple, though, is empty, save for a company of soldiers clearing up.

Where before there were throngs of pilgrims, a few *hazrat* are left, and a *gurdwara* factory, the extremists built above the eastern gate. There they also manufactured crude but effective Stun guns.

Beyond the eastern gate all is quiet now. The offices and lodging houses are smoke-stained and bullet pocked, though the resistance was less there than in the temple proper.

But it was here that 80 people died after they were arrested. According to General Brar, they died "when miscreants among them began lobbing grenades in an effort to escape."

Official figures of those who died in the attack are now as follows: Officers killed: four; wounded: 13; junior commissioned officers killed: four; wounded: 18; other ranks killed: 231; wounded: 231. Civilians killed: 492; wounded: 86; civilians "apprehended": 1,417.

Extra for redundancies

Continued from page 1

The supplementary estimate also seeks additional provision of nearly £270m to meet the increase in last year's deficit as a result of the strike, and a further £12.5m for social grants "in connection with pit closures."

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons on June 5 that the loss for 1983-84 was expected to be about £875m, compared with the £600m deficit grant already approved by Parliament.

He also said that yesterday's

estimates were expected to increase total subsidies to the industry to £1,300m for the last financial year, the equivalent of £130 per week for each man on the NCB's colliery books.

The new redundancy payments scheme provided for the first time, lump sum payments of £1,000 for each year of service for men between the ages of 21 and 49, in addition to state benefit. While no pension would be attached, a man of 49 could receive as much as £36,480, provided his job is threatened by pit closure.

Comecon issues

The first Comecon summit for 15 years apparently failed to resolve a number of important issues, despite the adoption of a joint declaration on international economic cooperation.

Page 5

Maxwell change

Mr Robert Maxwell, the BPC chairman, said yesterday that he is seeking a successor for himself as managing director so he can concentrate on new ventures.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh presents the British Amateur Athletic Board trophies and world record plaques at Buckingham Palace, 10.30; and as President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, opens the 1984 Prince Philip medal, 11.30; and later attends a luncheon given by the Institute at the Connaught Hotel, 12.30.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief The Gordon Highlanders,

attends the annual regimental dinner at the Caledonian Club, Falkland Street, SW1, 8.05.

Princess Anne attends the Essex Agricultural Society's Essex Show, 11.30.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, visits the flower festival at St Clement Danes, Strand, 2.30.

New exhibitions

Channel tunnel: a lesson in hope; Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Elton Gallery, Ironbridge, Telford; Mon to Sun 10 to 6 (ends Oct 7).

Bath in Black and White: The

Corridor Galleries, The Corridor, High Street, Bath; Mon to Sun 10 to 6.

Last chance to see

Work by Sylvia Dillon-Gibbons, Gillian Lawson and Judy Massingham; Halesworth Gallery, Steeple End, Halesworth, Suffolk; Mon to Sat 11 to 5.

Work by Henry Lamb; City Art

Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester; Tues to Sat 10 to 6.

Exhibitions in progress

Views from Ulster: photographs; Peacock Gallery, Pinebank House Arts Centre, Tullyally Rd, Craigavon, Northern Ireland; Mon to Fri 10.00 to 5.00; (ends June 29).

Jane Carpanini's paintings; The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes; Tues to Sat 11.00 to 1.00 and 2.00 to 5.00; (ends June 30).

Scotland in Mixed Media;

Gladstone's Land Gallery, Lawmarket, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2 to 4.30; (ends June 24).

Photographs by Russell Sedgfield; The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes; Tues to Sat 11.00 to 1.00 and 2.00 to 5.00; (ends June 30).

Recital by young musicians of the Peter Symonds college; Menuhin Rooms, Central Library, Portsmouth; 12.45.

Recital by Pat Kerr (mezzo soprano) and Brian Kemp (piano); School of Education, London Road Campus, Reading University; 7.30.

Concert by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra; St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Concert by the Bristol Schools Music Society; Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol; 7.30.

Bowdoin Festival Concerts by the Brodsky String Quartet; Dumbarton House, Glasgow; 7.30.

Talks, lectures

The Englishman in Old English; Poetry by K. Crossley-Holland; Guildhall, Winchester; 8.

General

A Place in the Country: flower festival at Killerton House, Broadclyst, Nr Exeter; 11 to 6; (ends June 17).

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Parliamentary Petitions Bill, remaining stages. Lords (11): Health and Social Security Bill, committee, second day.

Food prices

With Ascot and Wimbledon almost upon us, thoughts turn to English strawberries. Though a little late this year, or perhaps because of it, few people would deny getting a real thrill at the sight of this lovely fruit. In shops and supermarkets they range from 60p to 80p a half pound punnet.

Spanish apricots are cheaper this week at 40p to 70p a pound. Spanish and Italian peaches, 12p to 35p each. English and Hungarian gooseberries at 40p to 45p a pound. Avocados, 35p to 70p each, and Spanish melons range from 50p to £2.00. The first British leobeg lettuce is available now at 65p to 80p each. Cox lemons 30p to 35p, Weibis 30p to 35p each. English Tomatoes are a real bargain at 28p to 45p a pound. Lamb prices have dropped sharply again this week, ranging from £1.43 to £2.00 a pound for whole leg, £1.66 to £2.39 for loin chops, and 85p to 1.64 a pound for whole shoulders. Beef shows varying trends, with Topside and sirloin from £1.93 to £2.54, fore rib on the bone £1.19 to £1.72 and stewing beef £1.29 to £1.64 a pound. Pork prices are more or less unchanged since last week. Pork sausages, 60p to 80p, and beef sausages, 54p to 70p. Dewhurst are selling pork chops this week at £1.38 a pound.

Information supplied by the AA

Top films

The top box-office films in London:

1) The Untouchables
2) The Untouchables
3) The Untouchables
4) The Untouchables
5) The Untouchables
6) The Untouchables
7) The Untouchables
8) The Untouchables
9) The Untouchables
10) The Untouchables

The top films in the provinces:

1) The Untouchables
2) The Untouchables
3) The Untouchables
4) The Untouchables
5) The Untouchables
6) The Untouchables
7) The Untouchables
8) The Untouchables
9) The Untouchables
10) The Untouchables

Supplied by Screen International

The pound

Bank Buys Bank Sells
Australia \$ 1.62 1.54
Austria Sch 27.65 26.84
Belgium Fr 80.50 76.50
Canada \$ 1.85 1.78
Denmark Kr 14.31 13.61
Finland Mk 8.35 7.90
France Fr 11.91 11.41
Germany DM 3.90 3.71
Greece Dr 159.00 149.00
Hong Kong \$ 11.25 10.65
Ireland Pt 1.27 1.21
Italy Lira 2400.00 2300.00
Japan Yen 335.00 319.00
Netherlands Gld 4.40 4.18
Norway Kr 11.17 10.62
Portugal Esc 199.00 189.00
South Africa Rd 2.16 2.02
Spain Ptas 166.00 156.00
Sweden Kr 11.63 11.03
Switzerland Fr 3.36 3.09
USA \$ 1.43 1.38
Yugoslavia Dnr 185.00 175.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 349.7.
London: The FT Index closed down 18.3 at 816.2.

Roads

The Midlands: A34: Contraflow between Stone and Newcastle at Strongford. M1: Contraflow between junction 24 (Loughborough) and junction 25 (Nottingham). M1: Contraflow at junction 27 (A51).

Wales and West: A55: Restrictions between Chester to Colwyn Bay at Llandudno bypass. M5: All traffic sharing one carriageway between junction 12 (Gloucester) and junction 14 (Thornbury); southbound entry slip closed at junction 13, diversion signed via junction 14. A38: Lane closures between Exeter and Exeter at Plympton Hill under bridge, Marsh Mills, Lee Mill and Halden Hill.

The North: A167: At Ferryhill, Merrington Lane (B6287) closed. A57: Two way traffic at junction of Regent Rd, Salford, closed. A6110: Delays along existing carriageway of Leeds southern ring road, W Yorkshire.

Scotland: A92: Diversion at A909 junction, roundabout when A909: Single line traffic at Inchgowrie Bridge, Buckie. M8: Outside lane, near junction 13, closed on both carriageways between 2.30 am and 4.30 pm. A85: Road works on Riverside Drive at Dundee Airport.

Information supplied by the AA

Traffic warning

Motorists are advised to avoid central London tomorrow when Trooping the Colour takes place. Horse Guards approach road will be closed from 9 am and many other streets in the city will be closed from 9.45 am. Normal traffic will resume after 1.30 pm.

Sealink

Sealink sailings to the Channel Islands from Weymouth and Portsmouth returned to normal last night.

The papers

The Daily Star, commenting on the latest post office raid, says: "Acting, as they say, on information received, police stake out a London post office for two days. Then they swoop, and in a matter of minutes two men are badly injured. But those men are unarmed. And we must ask why such massive use of force was necessary. The paper adds that there are already uneasy suspicions that the police are ready to fire on the men who are unarmed."

Commenting on Mr Ian MacGregor's Chairman of the National Coal Board, call for a national miners' strike, The Sun says: "Already Arthur Scargill says he will tell his men to have nothing to do with it. But something has to be done to discover whether the rank and file would actually wreck the industry. It's certainly worth a try."

Weather forecast

An area of high pressure will persist over much of Britain while weak troughs of low pressure move NE over some N and W areas.

6am to midnight

London, SE central E, central N, NE England, E Angles, E W Midlands, Channel Islands: dry, sunny periods, wind N light, max temp 22C (72F).

S W Wales, NW Wales, NW Scotland, Central Highlands, Northern Ireland: dry, sunny, a little rain or drizzle at times, wind S/W moderate to fresh, max temp 18C (64F).

SE Wales, MW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Northern Ireland: dry, sunny, a little rain or drizzle at times, wind S/W moderate to fresh, max temp 18C (64F).

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NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded. Symbols are as accompanying legend.

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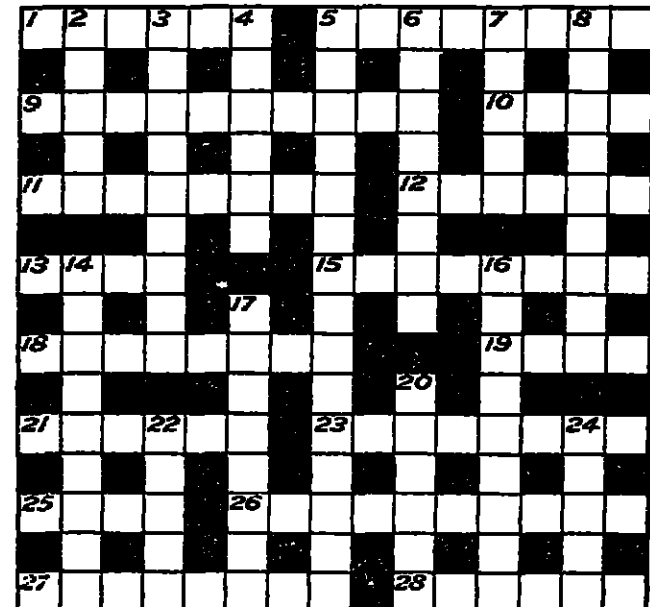
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,457



ACROSS

- 1 Close down in a panic? (4,2).
- 2 Avoid fish and poultry? (8).
- 3 Ability to make a comfortable living (10).
- 4 Initial letter gives sound start to drive, of course. That's swell (4).
- 5 Created only to be classical land of legend (8).
- 6 Pass on information initially to politician with cunning (6).
- 7 Wooden actor (4).
- 8 Manipulator on board in exchange for surgeon (8).
- 9 Does this anguish cause one's hair to come out? (8).
- 10 Put away money in this garment (4).
- 11 Published - and is prosecuted as a result (6).
- 12 Ex-lover has me all of a dither about daughter (3,5).
- 13 One of the drugs to give a horse (4).
- 14 Met Ronnie's new order for soup (10).
- 15 Computer could be ready for the summer (8).
- 16 In last resort, doctor is virtually the right answer (6).

DOWN

- 1 Kind of tower or gate of dreams (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,456

